(*b*) the number of tons of firewood already despatched to British India in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests:)*

(*a*) It does not require a permission to deal in firewood.

(*b*) There is no possibility of gathering the information.

SANKARANKUTTI MENON (V)—STATEMENT REGARDING BELABOURING BY POLICE

48. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have been duly informed of the public statements made by one Mr. V. Sankarankutti Menon of Irinjalakkuda that he was belaboured by the Police in Irinjalakkuda station;

(*b*) will they be pleased to state what if any action has been taken in the matter?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(*a*) Without knowing the period covered by the question it is not possible to give a definite answer.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

RIKSHAW HIRES—CONTROL OF

49. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state.—whether any instructions have been issued to police officers in regard to the strict control of the rikshaw hires notified under the Hackney carriages act?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know whether any special staff has been deputed for the purpose?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* No special staff was deputed. The field police had been instructed to take stock of such things and take necessary action.

BUS—PROCUREMENT ON LEASE-LEND BASIS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

50. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state whether (*a*) there is not the practice to obtain buses from the Central Government on the lease and lend scheme, and

(*b*) any steps have so far been taken in this line?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(*a*) Civil Motor Transport vehicles are allotted to this State also by the Government of India.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know the number of buses we have got as per this scheme?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* We have been getting the quota from the Government of India allotted to this State and we allot the buses and lorries to such persons who are engaged in war effort. We give due consideration to all people in the order of priority.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Then these buses are not lent for private purposes?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It is.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder. *(Nominated):* Sir, I congratulate the Finance Member and through him the Government for placing before us a surplus budget. The problem today the world over is the post-war questions and before I turn to these subjects, I wish to say a few words on one or two other matters. Like my colleagues, I am happy that Government has increased the dearness allowance to all servants drawing salaries below Rs. 200 but I think it is only fair and equitable to give dearness allowance to all servants irrespective of their salaries. The cost of living has not only hit the poorly paid servants but the higher paid staff too suffers equally, if not comparatively more, as their commitments are great and standard of life higher. I am also pleased that the long awaited legislation for the prevention of begging is now before us. The

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great cry especially in India as the first step in the post-war planning is to raise the standard of life and I am sure that the Government can and must give a lead in this direction. I would urge upon the Government to appoint a committee to revise the scale of pay of all servants so that the minimum pay shall be Rs. 20 with the further view to increase it to Rs. 30 per month. We have nearly 6500 people drawing a salary below Rs. 20 and if their salaries are raised to Rs. 20 the commitments of government will be about Rs. 4,60,000. Government are paying now to these servants Rs. 6,76,000 in the shape of dearness allowance. I am therefore convinced that the Government can easily give a lead in the raising of the standard of life, thereby improving the lot of about 1/10th of our total population in the State. Thousands of our young men are now earning wages which they have never earned or dared hope of earning in their lives and it will be, therefore, a great problem for Government and the public to get servants on the old starvation wages of pre-war times. If money is found wanting, I would personally welcome any taxation for this laudable object. I am glad to not that one of our post war schemes is to link our State with a net work of railways, The proposed Kollengode—Trichur and Quilon—Ernakulam Railways will go a long way to increase our trade and bring prosperity in its wake. In this connection, may I suggest to examine the prospect of a railway linking Cochin with Bombay in a direct west coast route which will result in saving a distance of over 500 miles.

Unlike the Finance member I do not dread so much the post-war period. There will undoubtedly be a slump but if measures are taken in advance, as are being done throughout the world, I feel that Cochin can safely launch upon some of the post war schemes which will only bring prosperity and contentment throughout the length and breadth of our little State.

Mr. L. M. Pylee. *(Latin Christians—Ernakulam):* There are very many people who are glad that Cochin has been having a surplus budget for several years now. I, for one, Sir, do not feel glad at this seeming financial prosperity. On the other hand, I feel sorry that our surpluses are thus mounting up, year by year and are being filled up, Rs. 20 lakhs, for example, being dumped now to the Revenue Reserve Fund. I am desirous that our revenue should increase. there may still be scope for taxation. But I am not for making large surpluses, as has been the policy of the Government. A certain portion, no doubt, should be set apart by way of saving, especially now in view of the post-war reconstruction. Nevertheless, I ask the Hon' ble Government, whether there are not needs of the most urgent nature, to be satisfied—some of them most elementary needs, which it is the duty of every civilised Government to have satisfied long long ago. Why do the Government hug at and hang on to these surpluses, while for example, almost before our very eyes, we see thousands, in the coastal areas—the littoral tracts, the most crowded area in the State,—when thousands, I say, in these regions, are strugg—ling for a pot of fresh water to cook their meagre food and to quench their thirst? Are we to be glad at our surplus budget when there is imperative necessity, for funds, more funds, more and more funds, to combat among our people dirt and disease and to provide in very many areas the most elementary requisites of of civilised life? Are we to be glad at our surpluses when the poor toiling masses of the suburbs of Cochin Harbour, men, women and children in hundreds every day, have no roads to tread along to the scenes of their labour, and no transport facilities to take them over the dangerous backwaters, where many, in the recent past, have perished? Are we to be glad when on one side we find funds accumulating, and on the other, we find labour, especially women labour, being employed and exploited in cruel conditions, as on Willingdon Island, with-out a hand being stretched to them for their relief and well-being ? And lastly, I ask, are we to be glad at all this accumulating money, when hundreds and hundreds of Government's own servants whose services have been, directly or indirectly, responsible to a large extent for the acquisition of these great surpluses, have been, and are starving with their families on miserable little salaries, the dimensions of which ought to be a disgrace to any civilised administration. Note for example, the wast number of our Government employees, in many Departments, being paid salaries of Rs. 10, 11, 12, and so on.

Sir, there are any number of directions in which funds should have been immediately utili-sed, or utilised even long ago. For the last nearly seven years, I have been asking on the floor of this House for the supply of that most elemental need of humanity, namely, fresh water, for those narrow and densely crowded regions stretching northwards from Vypeen. The distress prevailing in that region of vital importance to the Harbour, as much of its labour population comes from there, is of the acutest kind. Yet, for the years Government have most culpably neglected this question and evaded it with what, in effect, is the exclamation, "What can be done!". I have seen for myself how women every day trudge and trudge for miles to get one or two pots of fresh water to cook the food for their families and children. I have seen for myself

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how small tiny pits are dug on the seashore by women of the place and water taken from them with cocoanut shell ladles and other little implements. Truly, Sir, if an outsider were to visit these localities, he would wonder whether these people are the subject of a civilised government. Instead of making serious efforts, even frantic efforts, I would say, Government have been adopting some ineffective measures, and these in the most half-hearted manner, which do not touch even the fringes of the problem. I do hope, Sir, that, at least, in the present regime of administration this great problem will be solved.

That Village where this need exists is the most thickly populated in the whole State. The people are poor, a part of the dumb millions of India—a fact that explains, perhaps, why their interest is so sadly neglected. In the same village which is a feeder region of the harbour, so far as the supply of labour is concerned, a scheme has been pending for the last 15 years at least, called the Vypeen-Pallipuram Road scheme. On various excuses the construction of this great and useful road has been put off by the Government. And now possibly the War has come to its aid! It may be, Sir, that this road will not be a source of much revenue to the State as the newly constructed Anamallais Road is. But, I ask, is profit to be the criterion of road construction? The plea often put forward by the Government that there are water-ways of the backwaters to serve this region is no plea at all. Men are not fishes to get on to places they wish to reach, as and when they li'e, through the backwaters. I would request the Government to give their early attention to this question. I would even suggest that the profit that will accrue from the Anamallais Road may even partly be utilised for the construction of this road, so necessary for the well-being of the population of the region that is the most thickly populated village of our State. The poor people of this village contribute a large portion of the Abkari revenue, which, according to the Diwan President's speech, has been the most important source of our surplus income for 1120. Do these people, then, deserve to be neglected like this, without water and without a road ? but, indeed, much to drink.

Sir, I have very many questions to touch upon. But the limited time for the debate does not permit it. But as one who has devoted almost his whole life-time to the work of collegiate education I would stress upon the need to remedy certain hard condition. that have recently cropped up in connection with the Maharaja's College Hostel. Perhaps, the public are not sufficiently aware that the students of that Hostel suffer misery, in point of accommodation, food and sanitation, chiefly, during the unwarranted, unnecessary and injurious step of suppressing the Shanmukham Hostel and the transference of its inmates to the Maharaja's College Hostel. The reasons for the suppression of the Sir Shanmukham Hostel are of a very flimsy kind and cannot stand the test of careful scrutiny. I am sorry that I cannot bring this matter for the discussion in this House, by means of a cut motion, as the information for the cut motion reached me too late. There is an Advisory Committee in the College, Sir, to advise the Government on matters relating to the College But that Committee of which I am a Member elected by this Hon'ble House, is a farce. After the time of Mr. Mill, the Principals have not cared to consult it or to seek its advice on any matter relating to the College, except the Budget estimate which too is only a formality. I wish I had time to give the details. But I have not.

Sir, one or two points more and I am finished. I am glad that our Food Department has earned a fame and reputation for its efficient and successful work, which has elicited admiration even from outside the limits of the State. Defects and drawbacks there are, as in every human organisation. But these are nothing when compared to the successful work it has to its credit. Again, Sir, very frequently the public notice that post and salaries are made to fit in with personalities whom Government want to favour, and not persons and salaries to fit in with the jobs concerned. This policy of the Government, to whatever extent it is concerned, is a highly undesirable one and is apt to impair efficiency in administration. Lastly, Sir, I touch upon the scheme of Post-war Reconstruction in a word or two. I am glad that in this all-important matter you made a declaration which I consider to be the *Magna Carta* of the Post-war Reconstruction. At the All-Cochin Industrial Agricultural Exhibition held in April last, the Diwan was pleased to say:—"In my opinion, any reconstruction worth the name must be rural reconstruction. And, by that, I mean such raising of the standards of lives and comforts of the Villagers and such an improvement in the rural economy of the State that those who live in the country side and follow rural pursuits may be assured of a reasonably comfortable, healthy, happy life."

If this idea is made to pervade our schemes of Post-war Reconstruction, our State will enter upon an era of prosperity and happiness. Especially for the improvement of our agriculture I would stress the need for an agricultural institute side by side with the technological institute you have mentioned in your speech. Let me hope, Sir, that all these schemes will have as their main

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purpose the intrest of the common man, and not preponderantly the interest of the rich, as it has been in the past. It is the era of the well being of the common man—the common man, who to-day fights and starves and undergoes untold miseries—that has to be ushered in, during the period and post-war reconstruction, and, Sir, may that reconstruction be conducive to the enjoyment by the common man of the Four Freedoms, especially, freedom from want, the freedom that is the basis of human life and human activity.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Mr. President, Sir, it is indeed a matter for gratification that this House had the good fortune to note in your address the great improvements in the war situation all the world over and the effect this war is having on the economy of the State and how the impact of this war has shaped our budget figures and how this Government preposes to tackle some of the problems connected with post-war reconstruction.

The references to the great demand for man power and material supplies from the State in shaping the destinies of this war and how the good name and reputation of this State have been maintained by our young men deserve due appreciation. The reorganisation of the State Forces on modern lines to that efficiency necessary for service under the Crown Outside the State in so short a period is no doubt an achievement which we have to be proud of. I offer like every other honourable members of this House my good wishes to this Company on its leaving the State for duty elsewhere and pray the Almighty to shower on it opportunities to maintain the good name and reputation of this State.

Timber of fine quality is mentioned as the most important State material that had a large demand and the sale of this has abnormally increased our Forest Revenue. In giving this piece of information you have assured the House that our Forests have neither been destroyed nor denuded, but on the other hand it has only helped to eliminate a great deal of inferior growth and have further pointed out that Post-war Forest Development has actually being started during the currency of the war itself. While duly appreciating these references and concurring with the Government that it is a matter of duty to meet all such war demands, I take this opportunity to point out that such supplies should not cause any serious dearth for good timber in the post-war period. I beg to submit that some difficulty to secure good timber is being felt now. Much difficulty is also being experienced in securing sufficient firewood in spite of the arrangements that have been made by Government to supply the commodity at control rates. War conditions will, no doubt, lead to such experience and some sacrifice has to be made by every citizen. Nevertheless some caution has to be exercised and I wish to bring to the notice of our Government that it should keep some reserve both as regards fine timber and firewood so as to avoid serious difficulties later. I regret that I cannot agree with the view that the Conservator of Forests and his subordinates deserve special congratulation for the excellent results of the year's working of that Department. The profit of the Department is not the result of any special attention bestowed by that Department but only the out-come of the sale of materials which already existed there.

The symptom of distress created by the beggar nuisance has indeed been tackled in a wise manner. I as one who served in that Committee, take this opportunity to assure this House that the subject was studied deeply and a very valuable report has been submitted to Government. I congratulate Government for its efforts to bring a Bill before this House in this session itself implementing the recomendations of the Committee and I request the hon'ble members to give their unanimous support to the measure. This will then be an achievement for our State which every Cochinite has a right to be proud of. The emergency measures in force in some of the Municipal Towns to combat the intolerable evil, is not a real solution to do away with this evil.

I fully agree with Government in their view that measures to check Hoarding and Profiteering should be vigorouslay and ruthlessly enforced. But I wish to point out that Government should not arrive at definite conclusions from the reports of subordinate officials alone but should have such allegations thoroughly investigated by responsible officers and thus avoid decent citizens free from guilt from being subjected to uncessary trouble.

The abnormal differences shown between the anticipated and actual budget estimates in the opening speech does not speak high of those responsible for the preparation of such estimates.

Government's proposal to place Rs. 20 lakhs from the surplus to the credit of the Revenue Reserve Fund and thus bring it up to over Rs. 50 lakhs deserves due support. The figure has to be further increased to meet emergencies.

The Education Department is shown to be the one where there is a large increase in

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expenditure due to the large provision for the mid-day feeding of children. It is gratifying to note that the signs of malnutrition were brought to the notice of the Diwan as soon as he came to the State and that several efforts have been made to deal with these symptoms. Government's realisation that it is those whose incomes are fixed who have felt the pinch severely due to war conditions also deserve appreciation. The grant of dearness allowance to those under Government service to relieve to some extent the difficulty also deserve congratulation. Measures adopted to procure foodstuffs and other necessaries of life also deserve due recognition. But I wish to point out that much more has to be done to procure more necessaries of life and supply them at cheap rates to those with fixed incomes.

Provision of adequate facilities for educating all children of school going age is primarily a concern of the State. The contribution of Private agencies in sharing this primary duty of Government has not yet been duly recognised by Government. The invidious distinction shown between private schools in the matter of financial help to enable managements of unaided institutions to grant dearness allowance to teachers employed by them has much to be regretted. The financial position of such institutions though sound during normal times is far less sound under war conditons and Government have a duty to render some measure help to such institutions as well to enable them to grant some sort of dearness allowance to their employees. A portion of the surplus revenue admitted to have been realised has to be diverted to render such help instead of asking the managements of unaided schools to grant dearness allowance from thir own funds. It is hoped that Government will go into this question with more sympathy and render some help forthwith.

The defect arising from the inadequate provision to train more teachers has rightly been recognised by the Diwan and he deserves our wholehearted congratulation. The defect may be immediately remedied by opening training classes for teachers in some of well equipped High Schools, following the example of the Madras Government in the years 1919 to 1926. The deficiency of trained graduate teachers was overcome by that Government by opening a temporary training class in the St. Jeseph's College, Trichinopoly. An Additional Library and some extra staff alone will be required to combat the existing evil.

The results of the audit of the Food Department is an anxiously awaited but in the light of the difficulties pointed out by the Diwan for the delay this House should allow more time for the Government to give out the results. Government's decision to lease out the Hill areas to to private agencies for cultivation again deserves much appreciation.

The arrangements to improve the water-supply to Ernakulam and areas in the neighbourhood of the Harbour will indeed be a benefit to the State. But provision for increased supplies to the civilian population could not be put off till the demands of the military have abated. Both demands should be met side by side. The people of Mattanchery were being taxed before water was actually made available to them and the existing supply is insufficient to meet the requirements of the whole town.

Governments' plans for post-war reconstruction have to be appreciated and the Diwan's proposal to keep this House informed from time to time the progress of the various schemes is also a wise policy. His realisation that a scheme of sound education should be the foundation of any real improvement is praiseworthy. But I wish to point out that Mattanchery should form the basis in all future improvement schemes. The geographical barrier which was the real cause for the neglect of the town has now been overcome as the town has been linked with the mainland. It is unnecessary to point out that it is this town which contributes the major revenue to the State and it is a disgrace that such a place should belie in this State. It is hoped that definite arrangements will be made to improve the town during the regime of the present Diwan.

Government are already late in their schemes for Hydro-electric development. The neighbouring States of Travancore and Madras have already gone much ahead of us in this direction and several industries which could have been worked with success in this State are in operation in those States. Industries that are to be started hereafter should be different from those already in operation in our neighbouring States. There is much scope to start a paper mill in our State, somewhere near the Athirapilli Falls. Government are requested to investigate the possibilities of such an industry and provide all facilities to private agencies to start such an industry by procuring the necessary plant and machinery.

Improvement of communications by canals is a matter that requires the immediate attention of Government. The Ernakulam Mattanchery Ferry has become most inefficient. The traffic has increased multifold and the boats that ply are poor in respect of quality and quantity. The inconvenience caused to passengers has to be overcome and Government should bestow its immediate attention to this evil. The non-availability of machinery is not a sufficient explanation to

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solve the existing evil. Some arrangement should be made forthwith with the owners of boats leaving Ernakulam and Mattancheri to Azhikode and Alleppey to carry some of the passengers who are to travel by the Ferry and due compensation should be paid to them for such service. This is a matter which should be solved in a few hours only if Government and the authorities of the Ferry Service have the will to do so.

The loss sustained by sea-erosion at Cranganur has to be overcome by the construction of granite bunds erected in certain parts of the coastal areas where such evil once existed. The canals in that Taluk also require proper maintenance to enable boats to move freely.

I conclude my speech with a request. I crave the indulgence of the Government to listen to some of the disabilities of the Muslims. These have already been brought to the notice of Government and it is unnecessary to recount them all here. I only request that Government should give better representation to Muslims in the matter of higher appointments and more encouragement to improve their education. It is unnecessary to inform the present Diwan the enormous sums of money spent by the Madras Government in this direction and to do something of the kind in this State as well.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Mr. President Sir, at the very outset I doubt whether the Finance Member should be congratulated in preparing and placing the present surplus budget. The two worthy speeches delivered by the Hon'ble Diwan President and the Hon'ble Minister very clearly show how the administration of the current year has been carried on and how and in what way the financial administration of the coming year is going to be done. The Hon'ble Diwan President has stated in his speech that he proposes only to confine himself to the consideration of the effect which the war is having upon economy of the State, to indicate how this impact is illustrated by the budget figures, to consider a few of the more important measures for which financial provision is made and finally to touch upon some of the problems connected with post-war reconstruction of the State's economy. Now I am sure that the Diwan President is taking a keen interest in the matter of post-war reconstruction of the State and it is hoped that he will devote his whole attention on this particular subject because the general administration of the State can be carried on even without his special attention.

Now as regards the budget, I may say that a good portion of it goes by way of salaries. In this respect it is pertinent to note that the cost of living has gone very high. The respect which the public servants now command is rather very very significant. Even a rickshaw-wala gets more than a peon or maistry or an attender in an office. So my humble request to the Government is that they should reconsider, even though they have slightly increased the rate of dearness allowance, the question of revising the grade of dearness allowance by at least giving them 1 rupee a day. Then they can have the consolation that they will be earning at least Rs. 30 a month for their personal maintenance. I do not say that the dearness allowance should be extended to people drawing a salary of Rs. 100 and above. The Government may fix it at Rs. 100. It is very urgent and desirable that an advanced State like Cochin must consider this aspect of the question in all seriousness and revise the grade of dearness allowance as far as possible. This House will give its full support even in spending lakhs and akhs of rupees upon this aspect of the question.

Secondly, I come to the question of appointments in the State. As regards the appointments made in the State, at least for the past 6 or seven years after the introduction of the Staff Selection Board, appointments which are below Rs. 100 and which come within the purview of the Staff Selection Board, the various communities of the State are given their due share. But apart from that certain appointments do not come within the purview of the Staff Selection Board, for example, the posts of maistries, music mistresses, etc., even in spite of repeated circulars by the Government that even in the case of such appointments the principle of communal representation should be strictly followed, the Heads of Departments are not carrying out the instructions issued by the Government. Our prayer and agitation for foreign Diwans is on account of the fact that the grievances of the backward communities are not being redressed. I say it will be advisable for the so-called Muslims, Ezhuvas and depressed classes to have foreign Diwans. In the matter of appointments above Rs. 100, I may say that the Government has not paid as much attentions they ought to have. During the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 if you look into the figures of appointments you can see that the Ezhuva community got only a verywery few precentage of appointments. I may say that during the last three years only two appointments were made. I bring this to the notice of the Government and the Diwan to see that our grievances in this matter are not redressed as far as possiblet The administration report for 1118 shows the number of appointments given to the differen. communities. In the posts above Rs. 100 and which are permanent 32 Nayars and 13 Tamil

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Brahmins are appointed, but Ezhuvas got only 3. In the posts below Rs. 100 out of the 189 posts given to the Hindus the Ezhuvas got only 15. It is because of these factors that we are agitating, and will continue to agitate unless and until we get our normal percentage and unless and until the other communities co-operate with us, there will be no communal harmoney in this State.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* During the last three years, who were the Diwans?

Mr. K. T. Achyuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* One word more. Now appointments are not given according to Talukwar basis. The Government may consider the policy of appointing persons from different taluks of th State and I hope the Government will hereafter adopt this policy and see that the grievances of all communities in the matter of appointments are redressed.

As regards the reserved subjects, I have nothing to say. The most important subjects on which money is spent are education and public works. If the income of the State allows, much more money can be devoted to these departments so that the subjects of the State may be better off. As regards the transferred half I have to say one word. The Hon'ble Minister was trying his best and he has stated in his speech that as far as possible with the amount available at his command he was trying to see that these departments are carrying on properly. But if the Minister had taken particular care to secure much more money and if the Government were not prepared to grant that amount, then the Minister must boldly tell the Government that money must come; otherwise it is impossible for me to see that the Rural Development of the State is carried on properly. If such an attitude is taken up by the Hon'ble Minister, I hope this House would have supported him, and in the administration of these departments much better results could have been achieved. He must be a little more democratic even though he might be an all round man; if he had consulted his colleagues much better results might have been achieved and and other consequences might not have arisen. The Minister should understand that he is not an all-knowing man and that he should seek help from all classes and communities and see that communities are not neglected or disregarded.

About the general policy, the Government must try to see that industrial and agricultural development of the State is achieved. The Diwan in his opening speech has stated that as far as possible the post-war reconstruction schemes would be adopted even before the end of the war. I say not only the economic aspect but also the social and political aspects must also be taken into account. After the war we hope that in Cochin State there will be a policy adopted by the Government to see that people are educated and are given equal opportunities to develop themselves, that there is is social equality and that there is every possibility for the so-called backward communities to grow up. Let the principle be "One for all and all for one". If this principle is adopted I hope that we will be able to see Cochin in a prosperous State after the war.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to congratulate the Finance Minister for having presented a surplus budget. Nor do I feel, as he has felt, very proud over the record figures of income and expenditure for the year 1120. My position is that the Government, in spite of these record figures, is poorer today than a decade ago. I wonder whether the Finance Minister has got any idea of the extent to which paper currency, the circulation of paper currency, has increased during the last decade. What stood at 160 crores of circulation has now amounted up to 950 crores of rupees of currency circulation, and that is the real inflation which is confronting us. Translated into real wealth, therefore, Government's income is much smaller today than it was 10 years ago. The money value in general has fallen to about 25 per cent of its original, especially so far as Cochin is concerned. Again, the Finance Minister refers to the higher purchasing power in the hands of the masses. Higher purchasing power! He might have said larger quantity of money. I should like the Finance Minister to make a distinction between the quantity of money and the quantity of purchasing power. The purchasing power in the hands of the people is, if anything, much smaller now than a decade ago. Another point on which I would like just to offer a suggestion to the Finance Minister is in regard to his reference to anti-inflationary measures. He considers the recovery of money from the people by the Government, or, in other words, the transfer of purchasing power from the people to the Government by means of high prices for toddy and arrack, an anti-inflationary measure. I wonder how it is so. The Hon'ble Member should have remembered that the Cochin Government is not the issuing authority for paper currency. In the case of the British Government there is some ground for looking upon such transfer as an anti-inflationary measure, because if money is recovered by them from the people in this manner, to that extent it will reduce further issues of paper money. But here in Cochin we are not the issuing authority and the transfer of purchasing power from the people to the Government, again to be spent by

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them on various public necessities, would not in any way be an anti-inflationary measure. On the other hand, Diwan President has said, the savings drive, if it is intensified so as to induce people to put more money in Government of India Defence Savings Bonds and so on, would be a proper anti-inflationary measure.

Therefore, I should suggest that we should put aside all these feelings of complacency and pride over our record figures; rather we should, as was suggested to us by the Diwan President in his opening speech, scrutinise the policy underlying the various Departments of the Government and how that policy is being carried out. And in that scrutiny our guiding principle should be to see whether that policy and the manner in which it has been carried out, has been conducive to the *maximum advantage of the masses.* This maximum advantage would be secured if first things are done first and second things next. To amplify that statement a little, my position is that Government should attend to and safeguard the most primary needs and requirements of the people first. Now, scrutinising Government's policy from this standpoint I find it very regrettable that even in these days of advanced ideas and high civilisation, the people of Cochin are denied some of their most fundamental rights. For example, the right of freedom of conscience, is still so very incomplete here in Cochin. We do not enjoy as much freedom of conscience here as our brethren enjoy in British India as a result of the famous Queen's Proclamation of 1858, 86 years old now. Here a change of faith is penalised in various ways. A change of faith carries with it the loss of a man's share in his patrimony. By change of faith he loses his share of the family property. Again a change of faith involves, as in the case of the depressed classes, the loss of so many favours and privileges which otherwise the person concerned would have received at the hands of the Government. That, surely is a case of penalising the freedom of conscience.

Another difficulty is lack of freedom of worship. In regard to the erection of churches, cemeteries and such other places of public worship or of religious observance, there are vexatious restrictions and these restrictions have of late been intensified rather than relaxed. There is no restriction as to the number of toddy-shops which could be put up all over the State and they could be located even on the road sides. But there are several instances, very recent instances, of churches not being allowed on the road-side, instances of the Departments concerned having insisted that churches should be removed farther away from the public road as if these are very obnoxious things! I should consider this a *standing disgrace, the blackest blot on the fair name of Cochin.*

Another elementary right is the right of education; and in this matter what should be the policy? The Government should see that all facilities are given to the parents to give proper education to their children. Of course, Government's funds are limited and therefore, it should be the policy of the Government to get the best out of every rupee spent by them in this direction. With that end in view, a wise policy was laid down by Sir Albion Banerjee when he was the Diwan of Cochin, a policy of encouraging private agencies in the field of education as much as possible by providing for a system of liberal grants-in-aid. In this matter also, the State Government has of late been adopting a retrograde policy. Several handicaps and restrictions have been put upon the peaceful working of the private schools. The grant has been reduced, and there have been several other vexatious stipulations, so as to make the running of private institutions very difficult indeed. The latest and the unkindest cut of all in this direction has been in regard to the dearness allowance which has been granted by the State as a measure of generosity. I do not know whether it has come to the notice of the Diwan President that in this very House, I think, it was on the occasion of the last Budget Session—a resolution was unanimously passed by the non-official Members—only the Government Block opposing, and not a single one on this side standing even neutral—all passing the resoultion unanimously that dearness allowance should be paid in full to the teachers of aided schools. But so far, Government have not been pleased to accept that resolution. Even now Government say they would pay these teachers only half the amount of dearness allowance, the other half being left to be paid by the Management. In these hard days, the income of the Managers has not increased. If anything at all, on account of the lower purchasing power of money, they too are in difficulties, and so it is hard and un-reasonable to put this burden upon them and thus penalise the poor teachers, for after all the ultimate incidence of all these measures falls upon the heads of the poor teachers. I feel it imperative, therefore, that I should take this opportunity once again to urge upon the Government to give proper consideration, proper regard, at least now, to the unanimous resolution passed by this House and implement it by giving full dearness allowance to the poor teachers of the aided institutions also, even as Government are paying it to their brothren of the Sirkar schools.

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Another thing is food, and here there are two aspects to be considered—the home production and the importation from outside. I regret to say that in both the directions the fruits of our efforts have been rather disappointing. As the Diwan President himself has pointed out very pertinently in his opening speech, Cochin though a small State has contributed so largely to the war effort in these days. We have sent 17,000 young men to the fighting lines; also a large number of labour battalions and a good number of war technicians; again a large number of our citizens are employed on the Willingdon Island on Military works; and the First Company of the Cochin Battalion is shortly to leave the State for duty elsewhere in India. We have also sent materials, timber and fuel in large quantities; also plywood, coir and coir goods, tiles and textiles and a number of other articles too numerous to enumerate" have been provided for the Supply Department. All these are facts recorded by the Diwan President himself. In spite of all this, what is the return that we have received from the rest of India? Sir, we should be very plain on the floor of this House. We find that our war efforts have been recognised and high encomiums paid by all for our great services. But fine words butter no parsnips. We must get some substantial help. In this connection it is good to remember that the total annual rice demand for the whole of India in normal times is 275 lakhs of tons. Of this, the foreign supply for which we depended on Burmah, was only about 5 or 10 lakhs. Let us put a margin of another 5 lakhs for extra demand due to exigencies of war. Even then, the total shortage would be only 15 lakhs of tons. Compared to the total requirement of 275 lakhs, it is only a little more than 5 per cent. This being granted, *i.e.*, that there is only 5 per cent shortage of the rice supply if the whole of India is taken into consideration, what tenable reason can be advanced for our miserable plight in this little State, except that either we have not pressed our point with sufficient strength or that the rest of India has been rather very unfair to our demand? Of course, I am not unaware of the fact that we got a few hundreds or a few thousands of tons of rice from British India; also, as the Diwan President has stated in his opening speech, we have received wheat from Australia, maize and maize-meal from South Africa and also milk from abroad. But compared to our total demand, what a miserably small fraction of it is all this? Again we are told that the Diwan President soon after he came over here, was advised that signs of malnutrition were apparent among the people. And what have we done to meet the situation? "Distributing supplies of milk to women and young children, providing mid-day meals in schools, increasing the number of Cochin Restaurants in different part of the State". It sounds rather grand. For spectacular effect, I say this is alright. But again compared to the large volume of our every day requirement, these petty doles, all too few a mere drop in the ocean. Now why I point out these things is that our complacency, our gratification, on the floor of this House in this matter, is positively dangerous. It is misleading to the other parts of India. They may very well think that we are here much better off, whereas the actual fact is we are in a very miserable plight. Officers from other parts of India are reported to have come to our State to study the successful working of rationing here. What a strange irony this! Are they, from well-fed areas coming to this semi-starved place to study how semi-starvation is to be introdued in those places also? In Madras they get a bag of rice for Rs. 20. I was in Madras last week and I can say from my personal knowledge that a bag of rice can be had there for Rs. 20, but here it is Rs. 30. Even for this amount we could not get enough rice. The quota allowed here is so little, whereas in Madras, the quota at control rates is quite sufficient for normal consumption. Even outside the control rates, they have to pay only Rs. 21 or 22 for a bag of rice; that is, even in so-called "blackmarket" they could get any quantity of rice at comparatively cheap rates. And in hotels, these conditions are seen reflected. For a moderate 8 annas you could get a very decent meal with mutton, vegetables, sambar, and butter milk and as much rice as you want, whereas in Trichur, I should think the condititions are far far worse. Therefore, it would be well if the Government places before this House all the facts and figures regarding the imported quantities of rice and other stuffs that we have got so far, so that together we might make a united request to the rest of India. Sometime ago, I found that when the Hon'ble Food Member was asked for some figures in regard to imported food stuffs, it was considered rather inadvisable to place actual figures before this House. I say that this is a bad policy. Let us know how and where we stand, and let us—both Government and Representatives of the people together—on the floor of this House make a united appeal to the rest of India, so that they may understand our real position. They may think that we are well off. We have contributed liberally to the war efforts; but let them understand that as regards food we are here in this pitiable position.

Then as regards home production. Let us examine our position so far as home production of food stuffs is concerned. As regards tapioca, I would congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for

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his honest and energetic drive in that direction, which has met with such hearty response that we have now even a temporary glut. However, there are areas in very many parts of this State where tapioca is not available, while in other parts, there is a glut. So a more even distribution is necessary, and I bring it to the notice of this House and of the Government for taking necessary action.

But in the matter of the Hill Paddy Scheme we have committed a great blunder. Let us hear what the Hon'ble Finance Member has to say about it. "The very nature of these extensive operations" says he, "was fraught with enormous difficulties, adequate control was difficult, proper protection was impracticable, the weather conditions were unfavourable and the result was disappointing". How far disappointing? The expectation was 14 lakhs, while the actual realisation was only 4 lakhs. Now if the difficulties were unforeseen, and they came unexpectedly, we could understand. But in this case, it was all clear, from the very start. "The very nature of these extensive operations', he says, "was fraught with numerous difficulties". If it were so, why was it undertaken, I ask. Of course, there is again a spectacular effect, the dramatic thrill of undertaking the cultivation of 12,000 acres of fresh land. But I say, the 9 lakhs of rupees spent upon it could have been much more fruitfully utilised on irrigation and in distributing manure and for converting single crop lands into double crop lands. The Diwan Peishkar and the Chief Engineer would have suggested ways and means in this direction, so that we might have had a better result, yes, a much larger quantity of paddy, for the money spent.

And this leads us on to a consideration of the working of our Agricultural Department. The Diwan President has made a very frank admission in his opening speech, when he said (p. 17) "I consider also, and here I hope I am not encroaching too far upon my Hon'ble colleague the Minister's Departments, that there is immense scope for the improvement and development of the work of our Department of Agriculture". Mark the words "immense scope". I should take it as a mild way of saying that the efforts of this Department have not been fruitful of expected results. In fact the working of this Department has all along, for long years now, been thoroughly unsatisfactory. I had occasion to bring this fact to the notice of the Government years ago when I was a member of this House for the first time in 1931. Thirteen years have elapsed since then. And yet even now our Agricultural Department plods on along the same barren track. So too, has the Ollukara Central Farm been all along a very costly white elephant. Experiments have been conducted and researches made, demonstrations carried out and yet if we apply the crucial test, we find that the results have been very disappointing. And what is the crucial test? Let us take a long-range view and look at facts and figures. How many acres of new land have since the inception of the Department been brought under cultivation as a result of the efforts made by it all these years? How many acres of double crop lands have been converted into double crop areas as a result of irrigational facilities provided by the Department? What extent of the ryot's lands has been subjected to the proper use of scientific manures? How many scientific implements have been distributed to the agricultural folk? What improvement has the Department effected in the quality and condition of the cattle supply of the country, and how far has it succeeded ineffectively—controlling at least the more virulent types of cattle disease. Even epidemics among the poultry, our agricultural and veterinary experts have failed to tackle. Sir, let us take a long-range view of their work; let us make a survey if necessary and take stock of their achievements for the last 20 years and I can bet it will be a most depressing and disappointing record indeed.

Then there is the Co-operative Department, yet another of the most useless and barren of our Departments. Here again, let us apply a general test, and see how this Department, too, would fare. What is or rather what should be the objective of a Co-operative Department? Undoubtedly to reduce the indebtedness of the people and to increase their earning capacity. Now, then, let us again make a survey and see how many of our co-operators or members of the so-called Co-operative Societies have during the 20 years of the existence of the Co-operative Department, had their indebtedness reduced as a result of their "co-operation". How many of them have had their earning capacity increased? The number, I am, sure would be ludicrously small. On the other hand, it will be found that the large majority of the "co operators" have been sinking deeper and deeper into indebtedness, because of the thoughtless and reckless fashion in which credit has been administered by the Co-operative Societies. A Committee was appointed recently to go into the working of co-operation in the State; their report has been submitted; and it is under the consideration of the Government. At least for about 6 months it has been under consideration. Now look at the composition of that Committee. Co-operation is essentially an economic subject. There is a Professor of

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Economics in the Maharaja's College, an expert who can give advice in these matters. Was he included in the Committee? There was another Committee, appointed to go into the question of Beggar Relief, again a social and economic matter. Was the Professor of Economics given a place there? No. That Committee, too, submitted a Report. But we can very well imagine of what value such Reports would be, when we remember how all available local experts were excluded from them. We have had very many Committees these days. The Devadhar Committee had submitted their Report, a fairly long one, I understand. It is not for want of Reports that the Co-operative Department has failed. The Co-operative Department is a minor department. We have not been adopting a forward policy of appointing the right sort of people, mediocritis have been appointed and the whole policy has been sidetracked. Nor have we made any sincere and sympathetic attempt to attract, into the co-operative field, the unselfish services of competent non-officials.

Briefly, Sir, these departments of ours, such as Agriculture, Co-operative, Panchayats, etc., entrusted as they are with the nation-building activities of the State, have nevertheless been mere costly ornaments, and not, as is expected of them, effective agents of public utility.

A word, Sir, before I conclude, on post-war reconstruction in our State. The Diwan has been kind enough to bestow his personal attention on this matter and he has given us an outline sketch of a reconstruction plan. Evidently, it requires elaboration. On this occasion, however, one can only indicate the lines along which detailed planning should be attempted. Plans and funds are no doubt the two things necessary for the successful working of any Post-war Reconstruction Scheme. The plans should include projects calculated, not merely to provide employment to the vast numbers of military workers who would be returning home after the War, but also to add permanently to the facilities of agricultural and industrial advancement in the country. Again, the numerous socio-economic functions taken over by the Government during the war days will have to be made over to the private agency; but in doing so, effective safeguards have to be provided to prevent capitalistic exploitation of the masses and to ensure a wider and more equitable distribution of wealth among those who help to produce it. Provision has also to be made for social security measures. I understand that an officer has been appointed to study the problem of post-war development in the State. But an officer of the status of a Deputy Secretary, I think, would not be in a position to do justice to this work which has to be planned on a State-wide basis and also in co-ordination with world movements. All over India this question is agitating the minds of Governments and non-official leaders alike. In the sister State of Travancore they have already provided Rs. 10 crores, and sketched out definite schemes for the effective utilisation of that fund. It is high time we, too, did something similar. It will be good, perhaps, to appoint a competent Committee of qualified men, both officials and non-officials, to sketch out a detailer scheme of post-war projects and to propose ways and means of carrying it through.

In any such Scheme, the question of "power" is an important consideration. This question of power had engaged the attention of our Government a very long time ago. Even before Travancore made any beginning of the Pallivassal Project, we had made detailed inquiries into the Poringalkuthu Hydro-Electric Scheme, which was then estimated to cost an initial outlay of 70 to 80 lakhs of rupees. Various other schemes have also been investigated since then. And yet even now, we are in the land of investigations and Schemes, not having proceeded an inch towards the effective realization of any one of them. And now the War is come, and we have to wait till it is over. Much of our funds has had to be diverted to war purposes; also we could not get the necessary materials even if we had the money.

In the scheme of reconstruction briefly chalked out by the Diwan, he has almost omitted one aspect of such reconstruction, and that is essentially a social aspect. In England, social security measures, such as unemployment insurance, old age pensions, free medical aid to the poor, better housing, accommodation, etc., are given great prominence in the reconstruction schemes. If social peace and security are to be guaranteed, the poor man's condition should be bettered, his livelihood made certain and secure and in modern society this is not an easy job. I am glad my Hon'ble friend from Mattancheri has in his speech referred to some of the ways in which it could be done. Those are, however, only a few of the suggestions that could be made in this direction, and they require careful consideration and supplementing at the hands of a competent Committee.

Thus, then, Sir, there are several problems, plans and projects, calling for solution, or requiring scrutiny or awaiting execution at the hands of the Government. Evidently, the success of the work would, in a great measure, depend on those who do it. I am glad, therefore, to note that here in Cochin, both in and out of the Service, there are able and efficient sons of

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the soil, who can be relied upon, not only to maintain the day-to-day Administration in all its integrity, but also to tackle with credit the various problems of post-war reconstruction. There would be no need, therefore, for importing Officers from outside, either for present needs or for future plans,—except in regard to the Chief Executive Officer of the State, who has to hold the balance even, in the face of conflicting communal interests. For the rest, Cochin has enough local talent for all her requirements, and if only fairness, would prevail in its requisition, and discernment in its employment, then the future of our little State shall be bright, and shall be assured as such for all time,

Mr. A. T. Kunhipalu *(Kattur):* Mr. President, we have to thank the Government for the kind sincere efforts they have made to save the State from starvation. As remarked in the Hon'ble Diwan's speech the attempts have been to that extent successful also.

I do not propose to enter upon the discussion in detail on the various heads in the Budget. It is my duty to state before this Hon'ble House certain matters of which I have personal special knowledge and experience and are of importance to the whole State in these days of "Food Control". There are on the border, tenants who are in acatual cultivation of lands in Cochin State. For harvesting these they obtain permits of transport of sheaves with grains called "കഠ" to the British side on the pretext of a share holder or Pankuvaram tenant in Cochin State. Apart from the truth or otherwise of this Pankuvaram, what these tenants actually do is detrimental to the State. By means too well known to be told the Village Officer is pacified with a kychit for a nominal amount of paddy to be sold to Sirkar and almost every stalk of the harvest is transported with the permit. This has been going on and will be unless Government realise the situation and take effective preventive action. Reciprosity rule may be applied in this matter also is my suggestion to Government.

I have to place before this House the very sad plight of the tapioca growers. The production is something which will not survive the season underground. If lifted, the product has to be disposed of within the shortest interval failing which the whole thing will decay and get damaged. There is over-production here cannot but be admitted. It will be of the greatest disadvantage to the cultivator if these are lost due to the ban on transport and export. There is no reason why when we have more than we can consume, a portion may not be allowed to be exported to the places where there is demand and a fair return or prices can be got. It is even now late enough to come to the rescue of these and I hope Government will rise to the occassion.

The next point I would respectfully press upon the Government is the necessity to grant full dearness allowance to aided school teachers. These institutions are in these days of heavy cost run at immense risks and greater hardships. At least during these days of heavy cost of living, the aided schools may be granted full dearness allowance. In this connection I have to press upon Government the necessity also of retaining the low paid servants of the Government, in their own villages or places near to their homesteads to enable them to eke out a living with their departments. Such of them as are at present otherwise placed may be kindly send back, even if transfers are given as punishments.

I have a word to say about the system of Honoraty Visitors in the hospitals now obtaining. I will not be wrong in submitting that this is only a farce. No real good is done. We visit these on requisition from the officer-in-charge and note down something in the Books. We do not hear of them again. We feel disappointed at this and ere long I do not think there will be many who will be willing to be members of these.

I have also to remark that the Government have set apart a very poor allotment towards supply of medicines in the hospitals. The cost of these have gone so high that it would be impossible to supply the quantity as before with the amount sanctioned. I hope that the Government will realise that these are days when illness is the order of the day.

With this I conclude.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽഗോവർദ്ധനലാലൻ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ സമ്മേളനാവസരം പൊതുവെ ചില കാര്യങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നതിനു് ഒരുകയ്യും കിട്ടുന്ന ഒരു സന്ദർഭമാണു്. ഇതു് പാഴാക്കികളയണ്ടായെന്നുവിചാരിച്ചു് ഞാനും ചില കാര്യങ്ങൾ പറയാമെന്നു് വിചാരിക്കുകയാണു്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ റേഷനിംഗു് വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നാണു് പുറമെയുള്ള വിചാരം. ഇതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഇൻഡ്യാ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗാന്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരും നമ്മുടെ റേഷനിംഗു് മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി നമ്മുടെരാജ്യം സന്ദർശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സന്ദർശനങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായിട്ടുള്ള സ്റ്റിഫിക്കറ്റുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഇതിനു് നന്ദിപറയുവാൻ ഞാൻ ഒരുക്കമില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ പ

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ട്ടിണിയെ പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടിയാണ് ഫുഡ്സപ്ലൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ട് നടത്തുന്നതെന്ന് ഘോഷിക്കുന്നതു് എത്രത്തോളം അബദ്ധമാണെന്നുള്ളതു് ആരും അറിയുന്നില്ല. മൂന്നു നേരം ഭക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് രണ്ടുനേരം ഭക്ഷിക്കുകയും, രണ്ടുനേരം ഭക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരു നേരം ഭക്ഷിക്കുകയുംചെയ്തു് ജനങ്ങളെ പട്ടിണിക്കിട്ടതാണൊ നല്ല റേഷനിംഗ് എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ? അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു വളരെ നല്ലതാണു്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇവിടത്തെ ആളുകളുടെ ആരോഗ്യവും ആയുസ്സും കുറഞ്ഞു തുടങ്ങീട്ടുണ്ടു്. റേഷനിംഗ്കൊണ്ടു് ഞാനും ഒരുപക്ഷെ ക്ഷീണിക്കട്ടെയെന്നു് ഉത്സാഹിച്ചിട്ടും എനിക്കു് ക്ഷീണം ബാധിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല (ചിരി). നമ്മുടെ റേഷനിംഗും, നമുക്കടുത്തുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ റേഷനിംഗുംകൂടിതാരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ റേഷനിംഗ് വളരെ തുച്ഛമാണു്. നമുക്കു് വളരെ അടുത്തുള്ള ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് കൊച്ചിയിലെ റേഷനിംഗ് ഇവിടത്തേക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നുള്ള വിവരം പല പ്രാവശ്യവും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അവിടെ നാഴി അരിക്കു് ൨ ണ. ൫ പൈ മാത്രമെ വിലയുള്ളു. എന്നാൽ അതെ അവസരത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് നാഴി അരിക്കു ൩ ണ. ൨ പൈ വീതമാണു് വിലവാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതു്. ഒരുപക്ഷെ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ഇത്രയും വിലകൂട്ടിവില്ക്കുന്നതു് കാഷ്മീർ, സിന്ധു, പഞ്ചാബ് മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. അവിടെനിന്നു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന അരി ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഇങ്ങിനെ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു്, നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽനിന്നു് ചിലർ സുഖവാസാർത്ഥം അന്യദിക്കുകളിൽപോയി താമസിക്കാവുള്ള പതിവു് ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഈ അരി ഭക്ഷിച്ചാൽ മതി! അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ സ്വർഗ്ഗലോകത്തിലേക്കു പോകുവാൻ!! ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ അപഹരിക്കുന്നതിനാണൊ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശമെന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ വളരെ അടുത്തുള്ള ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകൊച്ചിയിൽ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞവിലക്കു അരി വില്ക്കുമ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു അതിലും കൂടുതൽവില കൊടുക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

ഇനി മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടേയും, പഞ്ചസാരയുടേയും വിതരണരീതി നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെക്കാൾ വളരെ മോശമാണു് നമ്മുടെ വിതരണ രീതിയെന്നു് പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. മണ്ണെണ്ണയാണെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ പോർട്ടിൽ വന്നിട്ടവേണം അന്യദിക്കുകളിലേക്കുപോകുവാൻ. വിദൂഷ്കതി സൌകര്യങ്ങളും അധികമില്ലാത്ത നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ ഒരു വീട്ടിലേക്കു പ്രതിമാസം മുക്കാൽകുപ്പി മണ്ണെണ്ണയാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതു്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു എന്തുകാണിക്കുവാനാണു്? പഞ്ചസാരയിൽ മണ്ണുചേർത്തു കൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെയെങ്കിലും, മണ്ണെണ്ണയിൽ വേറെ വല്ല എണ്ണയുംകൂടി കലർത്തി കൊടുത്താൽ തരക്കേടില്ലായിരുന്നു.

പിന്നെ നമ്മുടെ ചിലവിന്മേൽ ഭക്ഷ്യസാധനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ ഓഫീസ്സർമാരെ മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അയച്ചു, വരുന്ന ചരക്കിൽ ഒരു പങ്കു് മറ്റു രാജ്യക്കാർക്കുംകൂടി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ആനയും, ഉറുമ്പുംപോലെ അധികഭാഗവും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു പോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു് നമ്മുടെ പോർട്ടിൽ പങ്കുകൊടുത്തതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു വിസ്മൃതിത്തമാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള വിസ്മൃതിത്തരങ്ങൾക്കു് ഒരു കയ്യും കണക്കുമില്ല. ഇതൊക്കെ ചെയ്തിട്ടും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ൫ ദിവസത്തേക്കും, നമ്മുടെ അടുത്തുള്ള ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് കൊച്ചിയിൽ ൭ ദിവസത്തേക്കും അരി വിതരണംചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്ന നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ൫ ദിവസത്തേക്കുള്ള അരിയാണു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതു് വെറും ധർമ്മംകൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരേർപ്പാടുപോലെയാണു്. ഭക്ഷ്യസാധനങ്ങൾ ഇരുന്ന ചീത്തയായിട്ട ലേലം വിളിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഏർപ്പാടാണു് ഇവിടെ നടക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതൊക്കെ ആരുടെ ഗുണത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയാണെന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ ? ഇങ്ങിനെ അനാവശ്യമായി നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തികളയുന്നതു് ടാക്സ് പെയേഴ്സിന്റെ തലയിലാണു് വന്നുകൊള്ളുന്നതു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ എഴുതുവാനും കൂട്ടുവാനും മറ്റും വലിയ വിഷമമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു് സൂചിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഞാൻ ഒരു കച്ചവടക്കാരനാണു്. ഇവിടത്തെ Income-tax Officer ടെ മുമ്പാകെ ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കള്ളനും, ചതിയനുമായി. നേരിട്ടു എന്നെ വിയ്യൂർ സെൻട്രൽ ജയിലിലേക്കു് അയക്കുവാൻ നോക്കും. ഈനിലക്കു് ഇപ്പോൾ ആരെയാണു് വിയ്യൂരിലേക്കു് അയക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ഡെപ്പോവിൽ നിന്നു് മറ്റൊരു ഡെപ്പോവിലേക്കു് കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന സാധനങ്ങളുടേയും മറ്റും കണക്കുകൾ ശരിയാക്കുവാൻ വി

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ക്കുമാണെന്നാണു് പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നതു് ഒരു പക്ഷെ ഫുഡ് സപ്ലൈഡയറക്ടക്കുവേണ്ടി വക്കാലത്തു് ഏറ്റ ദീവാൻജി അവർകൾ പറഞ്ഞതായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടതു്. ഇനി ഇതു ഓഡിറ്റുചെയ്തു കഴിയുമ്പോൾ സാധുക്കളായ എത്ര നിരപരാധികളായിരിക്കും വിഷമിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു് കണ്ടതന്നെ അറിയണം. വളരെ നിരപരാധികളെയായിരിക്കും ഇതുമൂലം കൊല്ലുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു് തോന്നുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അവരെയൊക്കെ ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ജയിലിലേക്കു് പറഞ്ഞയക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും നല്ലതു്. (ചിരി) വലിയ ആളുകൾക്കു് സപ്പോർട്ട് ഉണ്ടാകും. എന്നാൽ സാധുക്കൾക്കു് അതുണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. ആദ്യം മുതൽക്കെ ശരിയായ കണക്കില്ലെന്നു വന്നാൽ പിന്നിട്ടുള്ള കണക്കും ശരിയാകുമോ? ഇത്രയൊക്കെയായിട്ടും ഇതുവരെ കണക്കുണ്ടാക്കാറായിട്ടില്ലെ? ചരക്കുകളുടെ വല്ല കണക്കുകളുമുണ്ടോ? ഇവിടെ ചരക്കു് ഇത്രവരാൻ പോകുന്നു, ഇത്രസ്റ്റോക്കു് ഉണ്ടു്, ഇത്ര ചീഞ്ഞുപോയി, ഇത്ര ലേലം വിളിച്ചു എന്നുള്ളതിനും മറ്റും ശരിയായ കണക്കില്ലെങ്കിൽ എങ്ങിനെയാണു് നടത്തികൊണ്ടുപോവുക? ഇതുപോലെ ഞങ്ങളാണു് ചെയ്തിരുന്നതു എന്നുവരികിൽ ഞങ്ങളെ കൊല്ലാതെ കൊല്ലുമായിരുന്നേനെ. മറ്റുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഈവക ഭക്ഷ്യ സാധനങ്ങളും വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതു് കച്ചവടക്കാരാണു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു കൂടുതൽ ആദായം കിട്ടുന്നതു് കച്ചവടക്കാരിൽ നിന്നാണു്. ഇക്കാലത്തു പലരും നിഷിദ്ധമെന്നു വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കള്ളവ്യാപാരികളിൽ നിന്നുപോലും നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു് വളരെ ആദായം കിട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഫ്രീ $\frac{1}{2}$ കി. വിലയുള്ള ഒരു ചാക്കു് അരിക്കു് ഫ്രീ $\frac{1}{2}$ കി.ക്കു് വിറ്റ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗോതമ്പും മറ്റും വില്ലനവകയിലും നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു് ധാരാളം പണം ആദായം കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞങ്ങൾ കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതെല്ലാം കച്ചവടക്കാക്കായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ Defence of India Act ന്റെ പേരും പറഞ്ഞു അവരെ തൂക്കികൊല്ലുമായിരുന്നേനെ. ഞാൻ ഇതെല്ലാം പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു് സപ്ലൈസു് ഡയറക്ടർക്കു് എന്നോടു വിരോധം തോന്നരുതു്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പൊതുഗുണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പറയുകയാണു്.

ഇനി പെർമിറ്റു കൊടുക്കലിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. ചില കച്ചവടക്കാക്കു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള ചരക്കുകൾക്കു് പെർമിറ്റു കൊടുക്കുവാൻ താമസിക്കുകയും വേറെ ചില വിഷമതകളുള്ളതായും അറിയുന്നു.

അന്യദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു ചരക്കു വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു വെള്ളതൊലിയുള്ളവരേ പറ്റുകയുള്ളു. നാട്ടുകാരായ കറുത്തവർ അതിനു പ്രാപ്തരല്ലെന്നുകരുതി പുറം തള്ളിയതാണു് വിചിത്രമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ വെള്ളതൊലിക്കാർ ഇത്തരം കച്ചവടത്തിൽ തീരെ പരിചയമില്ലാത്തവരായതുകൊണ്ടു് അവർ ഡുബാഷ്മാരേയും ബ്രോക്കർമാരേയും എല്പിച്ചു അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു വലിയതുകക്കു ഓഫർകൊടുപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ആ ഓഫർ ഇവിടെ കിട്ടിക്കഴിയുമ്പോൾ നാട്ടിൽ ധാന്യം കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചോ, എന്തൊ അങ്ങുമിങ്ങും നോക്കാതെ ടി ഓഫർ സ്വീകരിച്ചു സാധനംവരുത്തി നഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതേസാധനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു കിട്ടിയ ഓഫറിനേക്കാൾ രണ്ടു ഉറുപ്പിക കുറച്ചു ഓഫറാണു് കച്ചവടക്കാരായ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വന്ന കമ്പികൾ മൂലവും മറ്റും തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടും കുറഞ്ഞ കമ്മീഷനേലും മറ്റു ആദായത്തിലും ഇന്നാട്ടിലെ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ചരക്കുകൾ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടും അതുതീരെ അവഗണിച്ചുകളഞ്ഞതിൽ ഒളിച്ചുകിടക്കുന്ന രഹസ്യം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. Freight rebate പത്തു ശതമാനം കണ്ടു പ്രീച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടൊഎന്നു അറിയുന്നില്ല. ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ തന്നെ ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനു ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കണം.

സ്റ്റോറിലെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ വിറ്റഴിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത സാധനങ്ങൾ വരുത്താൻ Permit ഉം quota യും കച്ചടക്കാരല്ലാത്ത ചിലക്കു കൊടുക്കുകയും അതേസമയം തന്നെ കച്ചവടത്തിൽ പഴക്കവും തഴക്കവും സിദ്ധിച്ച വലിയ കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ അവകാശങ്ങളെ അവഗണിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്ന നയം തീരെ ആശാസ്യമല്ല. കൂടാതെ imported ചരക്കുകൾക്കു Permit കൊടുക്കാതെ മറ്റു പ്രകാരത്തിൽ ശേഖരിക്കുന്ന ചരക്കുകൾ കയറ്റുമതി ചെയ്യാൻ Permit കൊടുക്കുന്നതിലെ രഹസ്യവും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

പിന്നെ സെൻട്രൽ ഡെപ്പോവിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ചില അക്രമങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയാം. അവിടെനിന്നു സാമാനം വാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ ചെല്ലുന്ന കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ഗോഡൌണിലേക്കു് കയറ്റുകയില്ല. എന്താണു് സാധനമെന്നോ, തൂക്കം എത്രയെന്നോ കാണുവാൻ പാടില്ല. അവർ പറയുന്ന തൂക്കത്തിനു് പണം കൊടുത്തുപോകണം. ചാക്കു് ഒന്നിനു് ഒരണ വീതമാ

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ണ്ട് അവിടെ തുക്കക്കുലി. ആദ്യം ഒന്നര പൈയോ, രണ്ടുപൈയോ മാത്രമേ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കാലസ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഈ പൈയിൽ കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അവിടത്തെ തുക്കത്തിലും അളവിലുമുള്ള വ്യത്യാസങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കുന്നില്ല. അവിടത്തെ റെയിറ്റഫിക്സ് ചെയ്യുവാൻ ആറുമാസം വേണം. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ളകഴപ്പുങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ധാരാളം നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതിന്റെ യെല്ലാംരഹസ്യം എന്താണെന്നു് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. പിന്നെ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതും, നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ ആളുകൾക്കു തീരെ പിടിക്കാത്തതുമായ ചില സാധനങ്ങൾ വരുത്തിക്കാവുണ്ടു്. മനുഷ്യർക്കു തിന്നാൻ പറ്റാത്തതായ ചില അട്ടാണി പയറും മറ്റുമാണു് വരുത്തുന്നതു. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ വരുത്തിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചാൽ നന്നായിരുന്നു. കൺട്രോളിന്റെ കാര്യം പറഞ്ഞുകൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഇന്നലെ ഓലയുടെ കാര്യത്തെകുറിച്ചു പറയേണ്ടിവന്നപ്പോഴെക്കും പ്രസിദ്ധന്റെ അവർകൾ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുവാൻ അവസരം തന്നില്ല. ഒരു കെട്ടു ഓലക്കു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ റെയിറ്റു ഫ 0 ണ. യാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഫ 0 ണ.ക്കു വാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ കിട്ടുന്ന ഓല ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കണക്കുപ്രകാരമുള്ള എണ്ണം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നല്ലാതെ ആവശ്യത്തിനു ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ പാറാത്തവിധത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടും, മുറിയും മറ്റുമായിരിക്കും. സാധുക്കളായ ചില ആളുകൾ മഴ പെയ്തു പുര ചോൻതുടങ്ങുമ്പോഴാണു് എങ്ങിനെയെങ്കിലും പണമുണ്ടാക്കി ഓല വാങ്ങിച്ചു പുര കെട്ടുവാൻ നോക്കുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സാധുക്കൾക്കു ഇത്തരത്തിലുള്ള ഓല കിട്ടികഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതു ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. സാധുക്കളുടെ ഗുണത്തിന്നാണു് ഇങ്ങിനെ കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു നടത്തുന്ന Fair Price Shop പോലെ നടത്തി ഫ 0 ണ. വിലക്കു കൊടുത്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ തരക്കേടില്ലായിരുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കയറിന്റെ വില നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. ആരുടെ ഗുണത്തിന്നുവേണ്ടിയാണു് ഇങ്ങിനെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചുതെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. മടൽ മുടി കയറുണ്ടാക്കി വ്യാപാരം നടത്തുന്നവർക്കു ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഗുണമില്ല. വാർ പർപ്പസസ്സിന്നു് ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കുവേണ്ടി വാങ്ങിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുകയായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും തരക്കേടില്ലായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ കയറിന്റെ വില മറുരാജ്യത്തുള്ളതിനേക്കാൾ കുറവായിട്ടാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഫിക്സു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അപ്പോൾ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇവിടെയുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു ദ്രോഹമല്ലാതെ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു ഉപകാരവും കാണുന്നില്ല.

പിന്നെ ഇന്നലെ മിസ്റ്റർ ഭാസ്കരമേനോൻ സാധനങ്ങളുടെ വില ഫിക്സു് ചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളെകുറിച്ചു പറയുവാൻവേണ്ടി അയച്ച അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ സ്വീകരിക്കയുണ്ടായില്ല. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനവർകൾ പറഞ്ഞതു ഇൻഡ്യാ-ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് റെയിറ്റു് ഫിക്സുചെയ്ത ഗസറ്റിൽ പരസ്യംചെയ്തു കഴിഞ്ഞതിന്നുശേഷമാണു് നമ്മളും ഇവിടെ റെയിറ്റു ഫിക്സു് ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നാണു്. അവിടെ റെയിറ്റു ഫിക്സുചെയ്തു നാലും അഞ്ചും ആഴ്ചകൾ കഴിഞ്ഞതിന്നുശേഷമാണു് നമ്മൾ റെയിറ്റു ഫിക്സു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലെ ചില കച്ചവടക്കാർ പേപ്പറു, സ്റ്റേഷനറി മുതലായവയുടെ റെയിറ്റു ബോംബയിൽ ഫിക്സു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ ഒരു ലീസ്റ്റു് നമ്മുടെ ഡയറക്ടറാഫീസ്സിൽ കാണിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ലീസ്റ്റിന്റെ നമ്മുടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കണ്ടിട്ടുമില്ല, കേട്ടിട്ടുമില്ല.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member has exceeded his time. I must ask him to conclude his speech in a minute or two.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽ ഗോവർദ്ധന ലാലൻ: Thank you, Sir, ഈ നിലക്കു കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ അറിയുവാൻ ആരുമില്ല. പിന്നെ Profiteering and Hoarding എന്നൊരു നിയമം ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പാക്കിയതിനെപ്പറ്റി നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു നിയമം വേണ്ടതു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ഈ നിയമത്തിന്റെ വശങ്ങളെകുറിച്ചു കച്ചവടക്കാർ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിന്നുമുമ്പു പലവിധത്തിലും കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു അല്പമൊന്നു മനസ്സിരുത്തിയാൽ തരക്കേടില്ല. അക്രമമായി വിലയെടുക്കുന്നവരെ തീച്ചയായും ശിക്ഷിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഞാൻ എതിരുപറയുന്നില്ല. പക്ഷെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു നിയമം ഉണ്ടാക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു വേണ്ടതുപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യം കൊടുത്തതിനുശേഷമെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താവു. ഇതുയും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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The House rose for lunch at 1-30 p.m. and reassembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble Diwan President in the Chair.

Mr. President: We will resume general discussion on the Budget.

Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Mr. President, The Government have to be congratulated on the prosperous budget placed before the Council. A few years ago we thought it to be a very great achievement when our revenues reached up to just a crore. Now it has gone above 2 crores and it is indeed a matter for congratulation. The Government have put forward a surplus budget after making necessary provisions for the various items of expenditure and for post-war reconstruction.

In taking up the electric schemes I have to make a special request to the Government to include the Town Irinjalakkuda within its purview. Irinjalakkuda, the capital of Mukundapuram Taluk, is the 4th town in the State in point of importance. The 1st 3 towns namely, Ernakulm, Mattancheri and Trichur, have already got electric supply for lighting and other purposes. The public of Irinjalakkuda are greatly distressed even in connection with lighting especially after the supply of kerosene was considerably reduced, though electric supply is not a thing to be taken up now before the war is over. As regards the expansion of popular Government the previous speakers have already referred to it. Rumours have been often a float that some more Departments are going to be transferred to the ministerial portfolio. That is a matter in which the people are keenly interested. I have only to say so much about that.

In connection with railway administration I have to make the following suggestion. If the Government can get it achieved, that will be in the interests of the public. In some of the railway stations, there are a few shade trees planted. I have often seen people waiting in the shade of these trees. There are some stations without any trees In some stations, a few trees there are, but not in the neighbourhood of the station. If the Government can influence the authorities to have more trees planted it will be for the comfort of the travelling public, especially the third class passengers. In the summer season they find it very convenient to wait under the shade instead of sitting under a tiled roof in a room which will not be sufficient even to contain them. As regards the shade trees, I have to suggest that they may be planted also in public offices where people have to assemble every now and then, for instance, in the Registry Offices and Dispensaries with out patient department there also if shade trees are planted in the premises that will be a very convenient waiting place for the people instead of crowding in a small room where it will be impossible for all people to accommodate themselves comfortably. That may be done in the case of all publice offices to which the publice have to resort. Government also stand to gain if they plant jack trees and mango trees in these places. After seven or eight years these trees will begin to yield fruits. Afterwards it will be a recurring source of income to the Government and at the same time a boon to the public. In the world of education, it is observed that all kinds of difficulties crop up from the Department when new classes are started, or new institutions are organised by private agencies. Such difficulties must be got rid of. There should not be any obstruction from the department to have new schools and new classes opened, because the scope for education is increasing by leaps and bounds. I do not think that the Government can meet all such demands. If the Government were to find institutions for all the student population coming to join schools, the budget will have to be doubled. If private agencies come for starting schools, by all means it should be the policy of the Government to encourage them. In point of efficiency, also private institutions, I am told, stand high. In the Maharaja's College, in this year especially, I know that there were many applicants who were refused admission. They were not able to get admission in other colleges also, seats being very limited. I do not know how the college authorities can solve this problem. Any how it is necessary to increase the seats especially in the Science groups If it is not possible in the Maharaja's College, at least the Government may help other private colleges to increase the number of seats; because science will have to play a very important part in the future, not only here but everywhere. So it is not at all proper to discourage higher education in Science subjects. In the Medical Department; of course, additional amounts have been provided, but I think that the provision made for medicines and dietary charges is not sufficient; because the costs have risen very high. So Government may be pleased to have more amounts provided under the head of medicine and dietary charges. The poor people who resort to the hospital with serious illness have no other go than to seek admission as in-patients. When there is no dietary charge, the usual reply from the doctor is "there is no bed". I think that a solution must be found for providing more amounts for dietary charges and medicines in hospitals. In this connection, I may also bring to the notice of the Government the necessity for at least a

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small payward in the Trichur Civil Hospital. We have a very good arrangement of paywards in the General Hospital, Ernakulam. A payward on a moderate scale with at least 2 rooms may be provided in the Trichur Civil Hospital. In the case of most public roads there are no avenue trees on their sides. I do not know whether the Public Works Department or the Agricultural Department is now responsible for the planting of avenue trees. It is an absolute necessity for people who have no cars for travelling for they have to walk in the hot sun in the summer season. Unless there are avenue trees it will be very difficult for them to travel through the roads. In this matter also Government stand to gain by having avenue trees planted on the sides of all roads. They can be easily got planted by entrusting them on contract basis. A particular road may be fixed and the neighbouring inhabitants there, may be entrusted with this work on contract. Thus on the sides of all roads shade trees can be planted and it will be a boon to the public and a source of income to Government.

Then I have to say a few words as regards the great difficulty which the public now experience in connection with bus services. That is a matter which requires the urgent attention of the Government. I have seen people waiting for a very very long time to get a perch in one bus or the other because there is always overcrowding in most buses. The number of buses has to be increased. If that is not possible, the number of trips granted to each bus must have to be increased. Especially in the case of women folk, from morning till evening they have to wait to get a perch in some bus. Unfortunately in this country male members do not show any consideration for the weaker sex. If the western customs were adopted by the people here, there would have been no difficulty for women folk. But here there is no consideration of that sort. The only possible solution is to increase the number of buses or to increase the number of trips. Some sort of such arrangements may be made so that all people who go for travelling may get accommodation in buses. Previously buses used to take some overload. But some buses I am told, were recently charged. These bus owners therefore do not now take in more than the prescribed number of passengers. That has added to the misery of the travelling public. Some arrangement for travelling has to be found for people who have no motor cars. In former days there was the bullock cart and the jutka. Those days are gone. In connection with the Medical Department I have to bring to the notice of the Government one or two points more. Some dispensaries are still unprovided with postmortem sheds. On account of this, people are put to very great difficulty, whenever there is a dead body to be taken by the Police to the hospital for postmortem examination. I know as a matter of fact that some bodies subjected to inquest in the neighbourhood of some Government dispensary had to be taken all the way to a distant hospital because there is no postmortem shed in the former. There are a few dispensaries still without postmortem sheds. Government must understand that the police also are put to great difficulty in this connection. The policeman has to get a conveyance which he may of course manage to get on account of his influence as Police officer. Otherwise it is very difficult for him to get a conveyance for carrying a dead body. When the body is at last taken to a distant hospital or dispensary, the Doctor there will say that it is late. The next day, on account of the advanced stage of decomposition nothing definite can be made out. That is the result of the examination. It is not advisable to delay postmortem examinations. After all, these sheds do not require much expenditure. Three side walls with a door in the front wall and three small windows and a tiled roof are all that will be necessary. That is not a building which requires a large expenditure. A postmortem shed is necessary for every dispensary. Again in the Trichur Civil Hospital, I happened to notice one defect, that is the want of a covered way between the easternmost block of building and the block to the west of it. I saw doctors, nurses, hospital servants and the public in the rainy season descending to the muddy garden and then stepping up to the ward on the other side, always taking all the mud in their fact from the ground to that ward and *vice versa*. At times I have seen patients after major operation kept in the stretcher in the verandah for the rain to cease to be taken to the eastern ward. It is a very deplorable condition. I have already brought this to the notice of the Government before. The reply that I got then was that some new blocks of buildings are going to be constructed and that along with it the construction of this covered way will also be taken up. Now I find that it has not been provided as yet. A temporary covered way can be made at a very low cost. That will save the situation. I think it is an absolute and urgent necessity.

As regards the Supply Department, I do not think that I must add anything more to what has been finally said by Mr. Popatlal. Anyhow I may bring to the notice of the Government the distress that the public are put to on account of the scarcity of kerosene oil, the supply of which has been reduced from time to time. It has now come to 18 ounces per month. What on earth

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can we do with it? Even I get only 18 ounces in a month, irrespective of the number of members in the family. Probably it does not depend upon the Government since they have to get more supply from British. But I want to bring to the notice of the Government that they should try their level best to increase the supply of kerosene. If the situation was previously considered, electric supply could have been extended to most parts of the State and there would have been no necessity for kerosene. Again at question time, I got an answer from the Hon'ble Member for Public Works that the Road Board Works have now been sanctioned by the Government. I think that the Department will expedite the execution of the work. Further the Chief Engineer may be asked to try to supply some more tyres to the service bus owners. Whenever they are asked, they say that they do not get sufficient number of tyres. The buses thus cannot run all the trips. The passengers are often stranded on the way on account of defective tyres. If possible, therefore, the Hon'ble Member for Public Works should try to get more tyres for buses, so that the travellers may not be put to difficulties. I do not want to take any more time of the House.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* Much has been said about the post war reconstruction work and also about the proposed industrialisation. But I believe it will not be possible for the Government to point out any particular industrial work that has been undertaken in recent times either at the initiative of the Government or any private effort in that direction to which the Government has rendered any considerable aid. It is true that in the absence of plenty of electric power it will not be possible to have large scale industries. It is also true that materials may not be available for the time being to achieve this object of electrical power over the country. At the same time we have also to regret that we have been for a very long time stimulising about working some electric schemes making investigations and eliciting reports, and satisfying ourselves by reaching that stage. Schemes which have been once thought will come to the limelight have stopped on the stage of reports. Schemes on which money has been spent by getting expert opinion and elaborate reports are unheard of a year or two after. We have come to this stage when material is not available when labour is so costly and when things will be thought after the war. In this connection, I would most earnestly request the Government if power is not available for large scale industry to be initiated by the Government themselves cannot all possible facilities and encouragement be given to private individuals in this direction. When I make this request I have in mind certain private individual efforts that have been made in the neighbourhood of Ernakulam which should receive but did not receive proper encouragement and support at the hands of the Government. I do not want to elaborate that aspect of the matter. I only want to bring to the notice of the House one additional impression that is lingering in the minds of the public of late with respect to the transactions of this Department. I refer to the trafficing in the quota that is given by this Department. It is regrettable that merchants, especially merchants of long standing who can have half a century to their credit in the business sphere, when they approach the Government they are refused the quota which they can as a matter of right claim at the hands of Government. When such people are denied we notice on the other side people who have become merchants for the sake of getting this quota are given liberal quota for getting down onions, potatoes, chillies and other things. I would go to the extent of saying that I have got names, if I am challenged. I will go to the extent of saying that there are aided school teachers in certain parts of the State who are trafficing in the quota that they are obtaining from the Department. I do not want to mention the names of those who get these quotas, and sell them and make a profit of it. It is a shame not only to the merchants in this country. It is not a graceful thing for the Department too. Aided School teacher's improvising as merchants people who claim to be distant relatives who have been doing some business at some distant dates securing quotas from the departments throwing in the face of leading merchants and leading citizens of the State. It is a shame to the merchant community also. One more impression that remains in the minds of the public in respect of these departments is that this department is making a very huge profit, it cannot be true. I do not assert that this department aims at making a profit. But one thing is clear waste is committed and loss is caused in the working of this department which can be compensated by making profit in certain other transactions. As the Hon'ble member Mr. Poptlal said just now we see notifications from time to time of the auctions to be conducted by the Civil Supplies Department. Only the other day 2,000 bags of wheat were sold at the rate of Rs. 1—8—0 per bag involving according to my calculation a total loss of something like Rs. 40,000 to the department. Compared to crores in which the department is dealing the figure is very small. How to make good this forty thousand and loss caused on that account, and several other forty thousand. Except by levying an extraordinary price for the other articles and upon whom, does this cost go? Upon the proper consumer.

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It is not a very rich trader. It is not the high salaried officer of the department that purchases from the retail shop. But it is the poor man who with the sweat of his brow earns 10 annas per day that goes to the retail shop or the fair price shop and it is from his pocket that the money is taken out to pay for the waste committed for the damage caused, by the negligence, ill-deserved negligence of the officers of the department. I would most earnstly request the Government to enquire into the causes of such dangerous effects caused when the goods that the people get from the shop are very often damaged not to say rotten. I will also point out to the ill-advise result of such auctioning of damaged goods. Government may very well bury them or destroy them rather than sell them to other people giving an opportunity for the blackmarket dealers to vend them for good goods. I do not believe that the wheat sold the other day will not be sold for human consumption also. It will be better having lost 40 thousand to loose some 1 or 2 thousand more. If by losing 2 thousand the Government can be sure that the article should not be vended for human consumption, I think it is better that such articles are burnt or buried rather than sold for a pitance. I was urging when ever it suited that a facility for transporting goods from Cochin to Trichur must be made so that goods may be carried from Cochin to Trichur throughout the year by water. It is the cheapest transport. What exactly is the difficulty of the Government has not yet been made out. It cannot be difficulty of funds because we have a surplus budget. It cannot be want of experts. We have got the best officer for that. Government knows wherever necessary to take expert advise. It cannot be difficulty of people not coming for that. If the Government is not willing there will be private individuals prepared to take up the work, There will be companies prepared to make water transport from Cochin to Trichur the easiest thing throughout the year. We hear of much difficulties being overcome in other places by engineering efforts and I wonder why the Government of Cochin should themselves fail in the particular aspect.

I remember 2 years ago when Sir Shanmukham was treated with a tea party by the Merchants' Association at Trichur and this matter was placed before him one of the difficulties he pointed out was that it may affect railway traffic and the revenue of the Railway Department. That time is gone. The railway is making huge profits I would therefore most earnstly request the Government to make this cheapest means of transport within the reach of merchants of Trichur and the merchants of Northern Taluk so that the burden on the consumer by way of the cost that he has to pay will be reduced to the minimum. It is not the trader that is benefited. It is the poor consumer who stands to gain by that. References was made here also to the question of importing people from outside to fill up some of the offices of this State. When I refer to that aspect I do not mean any particular office or any particular individual. There are certain high places in the services of this Government places of great trust and responsibility which will have recently to be filled up, and several rumours are afloat of getting down people from outside to fill up such places. It cannot be that men are wanting in this land. It cannot be that the sons of this country will not be competent and qualified to hold such places. I do not for a moment think that Government will contend at this particular time that there are no men who can possibly discharge their duties of this blessed service. I only wish that the Government does not reduce the people in general or any particular community to a position in which they should be told that there are no men belonging to their community or to their country who can occupy those places. I request the Government to be pleased to notice a general feeling in the country that there has been too much of importing of men from outside. I have no quarrel with the proposition or with the position that has been taken up by Mr. Kutty that his community has not been as much represented as he would wish. I am one for communal representation in Government service wherever it suits. I am not against it. But to give communal representation all justice to any particular comunity. I do not think it is necessary to go into other lands. We can give communal representation by confining ourselves to the people in Cochin. It is not necessary that the representation of any particular community in the Government service should be accomplished only by drafting men from outside into the service of this country. Therefore when I say that the policy of importing men from outside should be the last resort of this Government I do not mean, that it should not be done in justice to any representation in service of any particular community. I do not deal with this aspect of the matter at greater length fearing that wrong and false interpretations might be put upon the statements that are made. I only bring the general feeling in the country that we have our own men to manage our own affairs. We have no fancy for people who come from outside. We are not believers in the efficiency of people coming from other lands. I therefore earnestly request the Government to take these aspects into consideration while filling up places of trust and responsibility in the service of the Government now and hereafter.

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Mr. Thattil Kochuvareed *(Planters):* Mr. President, It is gratifying to see from the Budget that the revenue of our State is over two crores of rupees. This increase, I need not say, is on account of the present war conditions. I wish to remind the Government, that if this hoard-up-treasure is not utilised with sufficient forsight, it is likely to lead to financial difficulties on the termination of the war. I desire to bring to the notice of the Government a few facts. The first and foremost is to increase the Agriculture and Industries. It is my humble opinion that the Anamalai road, started by the Government, will be of immense use for the extension of agriculture. The first stage of the construction of 17 miles of the road terminates by October 1944 and that a sum of seven lakhs of rupees has been provided in the Budget for the next stage. It is a known fact that on either side of the road lie thousands of acres of land some of which can be converted into paddy fields while others can be utilised for the growth of Rubber, Tea and Cardamoms, which at present lie idle or come under vergin forests, the same in other words along with the completion of the road will wonderfully change into a treasure of gold to the agreeable surprise of all of us. It is my sincere ambition that this road should never share the fate of the Vypeen—Pallipuram road. Considering the astounding and the immense benefits that accrue consequent on the Anamalai road it is quite unsafe to drag on its completion. Over and above the natural convenience for the improvement of the various kinds of agriculture on both sides of the road it would form the shortest route between the Hills and the Sea. Trees such as Teak, Rosewood, etc., of the superior species are gradually becoming rare and the work originally turned out by the above is now-a-days being done by ply-wood for the development of which industry suitable varieties of softwood are available on a very large scale on the borders of the Anamalai road. There being no adequate means of transport facilities from the hills to the plains, at present, the above trees waste themselves. It is electricity that promotes all kinds of industries. Peringalkuth Electric Scheme, when accomplished, will besides giving rise to multifarious small industries in our State would even attract capitalists from outside. I remember that a big businessman who hails from Bombay once told me that he would have no hesitation to start a rubber factory which would consume most of the rubber produced in South India, provided electricity can be had at a cheap rate in this State. It is therefore highly imperative to bring into effect the above scheme immediately on the termination of the war. That the Government has a desire to increase the means of communication in the State is yet another cause for consolation. In these days of difficulty to get Railway waggons and motor vehicles for the transport of goods, it is very necessary to deepen the backwater canal between Trichur and Ernakulam so that boats and vanchies loaded with goods can ply between the two places during all parts of the year.

I beg to invite the immediate attention of the Government in this matter.

Before bringing this to a close I warmly congratulate the benign Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin who is prepared to place the unprecedented increase of the State income for the various beneficial purposes in connection witd the post-war reconstruction.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: സർ, പ്രതിമാസം ൧൦൦ ക. ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു ഔദ്യോഗിക സോപാനത്തിന്റെ ഏറ്റവും ചുവട്ടിലെപടിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു ൧൧൫-ലെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വാർഷിക ബഡ്ജറിൽ ൧൨൦ ക. വരവു ൧൦൦ ക. ചിലവു്, ൨൦ ക. മിച്ചം ഇങ്ങിനെ തുക കൊള്ളിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു ൧൧൬-ൽ ഡിയർനസ്സ് അലവൻസ്സ് ൧൦ ക. കൂടി പ്രതിമാസം കിട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വരവിനത്തിൽ ൨൫ ക. വക കാണുവാൻ സാധിക്കും ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു ൧൧൫-ലെ ജീവിതത്തോതനുസരിച്ചു ജീവിക്കുന്നതിനൊ ൧൧൫-നേക്കാൾ ഇരട്ടി ധനികനായി എന്നഭിമാനിക്കുന്നതിനൊ ൧൧൫-നേക്കാൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക സ്ഥിതി ഇരട്ടി നന്നായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു വിശ്വസിപ്പെടുന്നതിനൊ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ൧൧൫-ലെ തോതനുസരിച്ചു ജീവിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയമായും ൧൨൦ ക. കൂടി അതായതു ൩൨൦ ക. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ബഡ്ജറിൽ മുതൽ കൊള്ളിക്കുവാൻ ഉണ്ടാകണം. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു സർപ്ലസ്സ് കാണിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ രണ്ടു നേരത്തെ ഊണു കഴിച്ചിരുന്നതു ഒരുനേരമാക്കുക, ചായക്കു പകരം വെള്ളം ഉപയോഗിക്കുക, ക്ഷൌരം വേണ്ടെന്നുവെക്കുക, മഴയും വെയിലും തടുക്കുവാൻ കട കൂടാതെ കഴിക്കുക, രണ്ടു മുണ്ടിനു പകരം ഒരു മുണ്ടുപയോഗിക്കുക ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം നിത്യജീവിതത്തിൽ ലുബ്ധു പിടിക്കേണ്ടിവരും. എന്നിട്ടു സർപ്ലസ്സ് കാണുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ ഒരുനേരം കഴിക്കുന്നതിൽ കുറേശ്ശെ കുറച്ചുകഴിക്കണം, ഒരു മുണ്ടു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ വീതിയും നീളവും ചുരുക്കണം. എന്താണ്ടു ഇതുപോലെയാണു് നമ്മുടെ ബഡ്ജറു്. ൧൧൫-ലെ

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ക്കാം ഇരട്ടിയാണ്. ൧൯൨൦-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ വക കൊള്ളിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതി ഇരട്ടിയായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നോ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം ഇരട്ടി കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നോ രാജ്യവാസികളുടെ സംതൃപ്തി ഇരട്ടിയായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നോ ഒരിക്കലും വിചാരിക്കുവാൻ ന്യായം കാണുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങിനെ ഇരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനു കാരണം സാധനങ്ങളുടെ ദൌർല്ലഭ്യം, നാണയങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവു്, ഗതാഗതങ്ങളുടെ അസൌകര്യം എന്നിത്യാദികൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള വിഷമതകൾ നിമിത്തമാണ്. ഈ ആദായം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു താല്ക്കാലികമാണെന്നു പ്രഥമദൃഷ്ടിയിൽതന്നെ വിശദമാകുന്നതാണു്. Tramway, Forest, Excise ഈ വകുപ്പുകളിൽനിന്നാണു് സാമാന്യത്തിലധികം ആദായം കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതിൽ ഏറ്റവും അധികം വരവുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു് എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിൽനിന്നാണു്. നമ്മുടെ ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആദായം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചതു് ന്യായമായ മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽകൂടിയാണു്. അപേക്ഷകൾ അയച്ചിട്ടും, നിയമസഭവഴിക്കു പ്രക്ഷോഭണങ്ങൾ നടത്തീട്ടും, നിയമത്തിന്റെ പരിധിക്കുള്ളിൽനിന്നു പ്രക്ഷോഭണം നടത്തീട്ടും ആദായമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ആദായം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് അധികവും അധാർമ്മികമായ മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽകൂടിയാണു്. കൊച്ചി ചില കാര്യങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം മറ്റുരാജ്യങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു് മുന്നണിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കൊച്ചിക്കാരായ ഞങ്ങൾ അഭിമാനിക്കാറുണ്ടു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, ജനസംഖ്യ, മതലെട്ടപ്പു് എന്നിത്യാദികളിൽ കൊച്ചിക്കു പ്രഥമസ്ഥാനമാണു് മറ്റു നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചിടത്തോളമുള്ളതു്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഇനിമേലിൽ മദ്യപാനത്തിലും കൊച്ചിക്കു പ്രഥമസ്ഥാനമാണുള്ളതെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പറയേണ്ടിവരുകയില്ലേ എന്നാണു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. (ലജ്ജാവഹം). യുദ്ധത്തെ തുടർന്നു് ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിലുണ്ടായ ചില കോളിളക്കങ്ങളുടെ പ്രത്യാഘാതങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു കൊച്ചിയെ സംരക്ഷിച്ചു് ഇവിടെ സമാധാനം പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി പോലീസിന്റെ സംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയും അതിന്റെ പ്രാപ്തി കൂട്ടുന്നതിനു ചില പ്രത്യേകമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഇനിയും അതിന്റെ സംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നും അതിനു കൂടുതൽ പ്രാപ്തിയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ചില അടിയന്തിരമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുംകൂടി എനിക്കു ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുണ്ടു്. കാരണം രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യസമ്പാദനത്തിന്റെ അല്പം ലഹരിനിമിത്തം എന്തെങ്കിലും ആപത്തുകളുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾ വിദ്യാസമ്പന്നരും സംസ്കൃതചിത്തരും വിവേകികളുമായ ഒരു ജനവിഭാഗമാണു്. നേരെമറിച്ചു് മദ്യത്തിന്റെ ലഹരിനിമിത്തം നാട്ടിൽ കലാപങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ പുറപ്പെടുന്നതു വിദ്യാവിഹീനരും നിരക്ഷരകുക്ഷികളും വിവേകശൂന്യരുമായ ഒരുകൂട്ടം ആളുകളായിരിക്കും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ആപത്തുകളിൽനിന്നു രാജ്യത്തെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു നിശ്ചയമായും ഒരു വലിയ പോലീസുസൈന്യം ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിന്റെ സംഖ്യ മുരുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിന്റെ പ്രാപ്തി കൂടുതൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടതായ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ഉടനടി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. ഇതാണു് വരവിനത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു് എനിക്കു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്.

ഇനി ചിലവുകളാണു്. അത്യാവശ്യം വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചിലവുകൾക്കു വകകണ്ടിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽ ഒരു ഇരട്ടികൂടി വേണ്ടിവരുമായിരിന്നു അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ വരവിൽ ഒരിക്കലും ബാക്കിവരുന്നതല്ലായിരുന്നു. ഒന്നാമതു സകല സാധനങ്ങളുടേയും വില മൂന്നിരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും മൂന്നിരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെപ്പറ്റിയല്ല ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതു്. രാജ്യത്തുള്ള സകല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയും ശമ്പളം മൂന്നിരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചകാലത്തു് അന്നത്തെ ജീവിതത്തോടു എന്തായിരുന്നുവോ ആ ജീവിതത്തോതനുസരിച്ചു് ഇന്നു ജീവിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയമായും മൂന്നിരട്ടിയായി ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകതന്നെ വേണം. അതിൽ കുറച്ചാൽ ജീവിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒട്ടും സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന വൈഷമ്യങ്ങളെന്തെല്ലാമാണെന്നു് ഏതാണ്ടു നാം പഠിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ഫസ്റ്റ് സപ്ലൈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടു് ഏതാണ്ടു വിജയകരമായി പ്രവർത്തനം ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു നമുക്കറിയാം. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിന്റെ വിജയകരമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണങ്ങൾ അതിൽനിന്നും കൊടുത്തുവരുന്ന ശമ്പളമാണു്. അവിടെ ൪൦ ക. മുതൽ ൫൦ ക. വരെയും, ൫൦ ക. മുതൽ ൭൦ ക. വരെയും ൭൦ ക. മുതൽ ൧൦൦ ക. വരെയും ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങുന്ന അനേകം Raw School Finals ഉണ്ടു്. കാമ്യമായ, ജനങ്ങളെ ആകർഷിക്കുന്ന ശമ്പളം ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു ലോഭം

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കൂടാതെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു് അതിനു വിജയകരമായി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചതു്. നേരെമറിച്ചു് നമ്മുടെ ഹിൽ പാഡി സ്കീമിന്റെ പരാജയത്തിനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നു് ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിന്റെ പിടുക്കാണെന്നു ധൈര്യമായി എനിക്കു പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിൽ ഇന്നു വേലയെടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു കൂലിക്കാരനു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതു് ഫാ ണ.യാണു്. ഒരു റിക്ഷാവണ്ടിക്കാരനു മാസത്തിൽ സും കു. വരെ സമ്പാദിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ Hill Paddy ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കീഴിൽ വേലയെടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു പുരുഷനു് ഒരുദിവസം കൊടുക്കുന്ന കൂലി വ ണ യും ഒരു സ്ത്രീക്കു് സ ണ.യുമാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ വേലയെടുപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ മാതിരി സ്കീം വിജയകരമായി work out ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലയെന്നുള്ളതു് നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. അതിന്റെ പരാജയത്തിനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നു മുണ്ടില്ലാതെ മറൊന്നുമല്ല. അതുപോലെ സകല ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടും ശരിക്കു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ ശമ്പളത്തോതു നിശ്ചയമായും മാറണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ Hill Paddy സ്കീമിന്റെ അനുഭവം എല്ലാകാര്യത്തിലുമുണ്ടാകും. കൊച്ചിയിലെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടുകളെക്കുറിച്ചാലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ തല തടിച്ചതും ശരീരവും കൈകാലുകളും നന്നെ ശോഷിച്ചതുമായ ഒരു വിഗ്രഹമാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറൽ ഹെഡ്സിനും അവരോടടുത്തുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും വലിയ ശമ്പളം, കീഴ്പോട്ടേക്കു വരുന്തോറും ചെറിയ ശമ്പളം. തലയിൽ വല്ല പ്രാപ്തിയുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടു ഹെഡ്സിനു നല്ല ഉപദേശം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ അവർക്കു കഴിവുസിദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ശരീരത്തിലെ ഒരവയവത്തിനു ശക്തിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആ ശരീരത്തിനുദ്ധരിക്കു പ്രവർത്തനം നടത്തുവാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. അതുപോലെയാണു കൊച്ചിയിലെ ഓദ്യോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടും. ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറൽ ഹെഡ്സിനും അതോടുയോജിച്ചുനില്ക്കുന്ന അപൂർവ്വം ചിലക്കും വലിയവലിയ ശമ്പളം. അതിന്റെ ചുവട്ടിലുള്ളവർക്കു ഒരുനേരത്തെ ആഹാരംപോലും കഴിച്ചുജീവിക്കുവാനുള്ള വകയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. എത്രതന്നെ വിദ്വാസമ്പന്നരും സമർത്ഥന്മാരുമാണെങ്കിലും ശരിക്കുള്ള ഉപദേശമനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാനുള്ള കഴിവു് അവരുടെ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുണ്ടായിരിക്കയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിന്റെ സകല പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും പരാജയത്തിൽ കലാശിക്കുവാനിടയാകുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഏറ്റവും അടിയന്തിരമായ ഒന്നാമത്തെ ചിലവു ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്—മൂന്നിരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്.

മറൊരു ചിലവു, കൃഷിവർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇൻറൻസിവുകൾട്ടിവേഷൻ, എക്സ്റ്റൻസിവുകൾട്ടിവേഷൻ, ഇങ്ങിനെ രണ്ടുതരമാണു് കൃഷി ഇതിൽ ഇൻറൻസിവുകൾട്ടിവേഷൻ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു വളരെ വലിയതോതിൽ നടക്കുന്നില്ല. ജലസേചനംകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തില്ലാത്ത ഇൻറൻസിവുകൾട്ടിവേഷൻ വിജയകരമാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുതോന്നുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു അതിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു എക്സ്റ്റൻസിവുകൾട്ടിവേഷനായിരിക്കും കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യം. അതിനു ഒരു സ്കീം തയ്യാറാക്കിപ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ളവക ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇന്നു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ക്ഷേണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതു് സകലരാജ്യക്കാരുടേയും ആദർശമാണു്. അതനുസരിച്ചു് ഒരു സ്കീം തയ്യാറാക്കീട്ടില്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള യാതൊരു ആലോചനയും സംരംഭങ്ങളും എടുത്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷൻ, More ഇറിഗേഷൻ എന്നു പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. More ഇറിഗേഷൻ എവിടെയാണു നടത്തുന്നതെന്നു എനിക്കുമനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. കൊച്ചികണയന്തൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ, തൃപ്പൂണിത്തുറയിൽ, ഒരു തോടിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രക്ഷോപണം തുടങ്ങീട്ടു ൨ കൊല്ലത്തിലധികമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ ഒരു തോടുശരിപ്പെടുകയാണെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നാലയ്യായിരം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമിയിൽ ഇരുപ്പുഫലസമൃദ്ധമായി വിളയുമായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അത്രയുംനിലം ഫലശൂന്യമായിട്ടാണു് വെള്ളത്തിനടിയിൽ കിടക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നതന്നെയല്ല ആ നിലം ഒന്നാംതരത്തിൽ പെട്ടതായിട്ടാണു് സെറ്റിൽമെണ്ടുകാലത്തു കണക്കാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതനുസരിച്ചു് ഒന്നാംതരത്തിലുള്ള കരവും ആ നിലത്തിനു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടു് പക്ഷെ ഇതിൽനിന്നു ഇപ്പോൾ യാതൊരു ആദായവുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ നെരെമറിച്ചു് ഒരു തോടുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയമായും പത്തുപന്തീരായിരം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമി ഫലസമൃദ്ധമാകുമായിരുന്നു. ഇതു വളരെക്കാലമായി ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കാര്യമാണു്. ഈ കൌൺസിൽവഴിയായും ആ തോടുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതിനു ഗവൺമേണ്ടിനോടു് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒന്നരണ്ടുപ്രാവശ്യം ഇതിനു സംഖ്യ അനുവദിച്ചു എന്നും കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ ഇനിയും അതിന്റെ യാതൊരു പ്രവർത്തനവും നടക്കാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതുപോലെ ക്ഷേണസാധനങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ അനവധിയുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ ഇതെല്ലാം

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ശരിപ്പെടുത്തണമെങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയമായും ഒരു സ്കീം വേണം അതനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു ഒരുങ്ങുകയും വേണം.

വെറെ ഒന്നു എനിക്കുപറയുവാനുള്ളതു് മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണു്. പതിവുപോലെയുള്ള തുക അതിലും നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലാതെ കൂടുതൽ ഒന്നും ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ചിലവുചെയ്യാനായിട്ട ഗവമ്മേണ്ടുവക കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതായികാണുന്നില്ല. ക്ഷേണം ശരിക്കുണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കുക, അതും പതിവായി ഭക്ഷിക്കുന്നസാധനങ്ങളും കിട്ടാതെവരിക, ഉപയോഗിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്തസാധനങ്ങളും ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ടതായിവരുക, ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം വരുമ്പോൾ രാജ്യവാസികൾക്കു പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള സുഖക്കേടുകളും പകച്ചുവ്യാധികളും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനിടയുണ്ടു്. ഈവക ആപത്തുകളിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു രക്ഷനൽകുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി നല്ലൊരുതുക ചിലവുചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. രോഗാപത്തുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നപക്ഷം രോഗികൾക്കു സൗജന്യമായി മരുന്നുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതായ മരുന്നുവാങ്ങുന്നതിനുള്ള വക കാണുന്നില്ല. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, ജനറൽ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ ഇറാലിയൻ നേഴ്സ്സു എന്നുപറയുന്ന ഒരുകൂട്ടരെ പ്രത്യേകം ശമ്പളം മുതലായതുകൊടുത്തു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു് കുറേക്കാലംമുമ്പുമുതല്ലേ നടന്നുവരുന്ന ഒരു സമ്പ്രദായമാണു്. ആ ഇറാലിയൻ നേഴ്സ്സു് എതുകോളേജിൽ പടിച്ചുവൊ ആ കോളേജിൽപോയി പഠിച്ചു് അതേബിരുദം സർട്ടിഫിക്കറും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന നാട്ടുകാരായ നേഴ്സ്സുമാക്കു എന്തുകൊണ്ടു് അവക്കുകൊടുക്കുന്ന സ്റ്റാറസ്കൊടുക്കുവാൻവയ്യ എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. ആ ഒരു നിലയിലേക്കു നാട്ടുകാരായ നഴ്സ്സുമാരെ ഉയർത്തുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ തീച്ചയായും പ്രൈം സുപ്പീരിയോറിട്ടി നിലനിർത്തുവാൻചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു ഏർപ്പാടാണെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നതു്. അവർ തലവെളുത്തവരാണു് ഇറാലിയിൽ ജനിച്ചവരാണു് അതുകൊണ്ടു് കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളവും കൂടുതൽ ആനുകൂല്യവും അവക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. എന്തു യോഗ്യതകളുണ്ടായാലും ഇന്ത്യക്കാർ കറുത്തവരാണു്, എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാരുടെയിടയിൽ വലിയ സ്ഥാനങ്ങളും നാട്ടുകാക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇൻഡ്യക്കാരെ Backward Classes-ന്റെ ലീസ്റ്റിൽ അവർ പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഇതെല്ലാം നാഷണൽസുപ്പീരിയോറിട്ടി നിലനിർത്തുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ചെയ്യുന്നതാണു്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ എഫിഷ്യൻസിക്കു വല്ല വ്യത്യാസവും വരുവാനുണ്ടൊ എന്നു എനിക്കു സംശയമുണ്ടു്.

Mr. President : The Hon'ble Member has finished his time. He must conclude soon.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: ഇതുപോലെ മറെ പല അത്യാവശ്യചിലവുകൾക്കും വക കൊള്ളിച്ചിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ സംഖ്യ ബാക്കിയുണ്ടാകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല ഭാവിയിൽ പോസ്റ്റാഫീസുകാർ റിക്കൺസ്ട്രക്ഷനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വലിയ ചിലവു ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻപോകുന്നു. യുദ്ധംകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊച്ചിയെപ്പോലെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടനുഭവിക്കേണ്ട രാജ്യം വേറെയില്ല. ഇവിടെയുള്ള അനവധി ആളുകൾ പട്ടാളത്തിലും ആസാം, സിലോൺ ലേബർഫോഴ്സിലും മറും വേലചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. യുദ്ധംകഴിയുന്നസന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അവർ ഇങ്ങോട്ടു മടങ്ങിവരുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവക്കിവിടെ ജോലികൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഇല്ലാതെവരും. അവക്കു ഇവിടെ വേലകൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലാതെവന്നാൽ അവർ പട്ടിണികിടന്നു മരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പരിതസ്ഥിതി ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണു്. അവക്കെല്ലാവക്കും ജോലികൊടുക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രാഥമികമായധർമ്മത്തിലൊന്നു. അതിനു ധാരാളം വേലയുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനുള്ള പരിതസ്ഥിതി ഇവിടെ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുണമെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതൽ പണം ആവശ്യമാണു്. ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് ഈവക കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ നിയമിക്കുയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹം എന്തുപ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻപോകുന്നുഎന്നറിയുന്നതിനുമുമ്പു് അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഒരഭിപ്രായം പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്നതു് ശരിയായിരിക്കുമെന്നു എനിക്കുതോന്നുന്നില്ല.

മറൊരു സംഗതി എനിക്കുപറയുവാനുള്ളതു് അധഃകൃതസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും ചില ചില രക്ഷകൾചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. നേരെമറിച്ചു് ഇതുരണ്ടിലുമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു വർഗ്ഗം, അധഃസ്ഥിതവ്യക്തികൾ പല സമുദായത്തിലുമുണ്ടു്. അവർ വലിയ സാധുക്കളായിരിക്കും, ജീവിതസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം കുറഞ്ഞവരായിരിക്കും, ദരിദ്രരായിരിക്കും, വളരെ അധികം ക്ലേശിക്കുന്നവരായിരിക്കും. അവക്കു അവരുൾപ്പെട്ട സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നൊ മറും സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നൊ യാതൊരു രക്ഷയും ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല. ഓരോസമുദായത്തിലുമുള്ള ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ദരിദ്രവ്യക്തികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി എന്തെങ്കിലും രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗം കൂടിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയു

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ള രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഇതേവരെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ ആരും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടില്ല. അതിനുള്ളവകയും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്".

Mr. President : I must ask the Hon'ble Member to resume his seat.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: എനിക്കിനി അധികമൊന്നും സംസാരിക്കാനില്ല. ഇത്രവക കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, I do not propose to take up the time of the House by going through the grounds already traversed by the various speakers , but I would like to make a few remarks as regards certain items of expenditure incurred for purposes which in my opinion are absolutely unwarranted and unwanted. In the Budget presented before this House we find that a large amount has been provided for expanding the Police Force. I concede that an efficient Police Force is necessary to preserve law and order in any country, especially in troubled times like this. But if the idea of expanding the Police Force is to stop the liberty of unions, to suppress trade union movement in the country, then, I submit that such expenditure is absolutely improper and unjustifiable. My first submission to this House is this sort of vast expansion of the Police Force is in my opinion not wholly warranted by the needs even by the increase in the number of repressive legislations that are being introduced from day to day, for the enforecment of which such an elaborate machinery is required.

Then Sir, coming to the expansion of the Secretariat, I mean, the General Administration my opinion is that the Secretariat is tremendously over-staffed We have been witnessing the progressive development of the Secretariat from a Secretary to the Diwan to a Secretary to Government and a Joint Secretary to Government, with one Assistant Secretary, a Secretary to Government, a Joint Secretary and two Assistant Secretaries, a Secretary to Government, two Joint Secretaries and two Assistant Secretaries, a Secretary to Government, two Joint Secretaries and three Assistant Secretaries and a Deputy Secretary. Now, all these people are to guide and lead and develop this country. I concede that a large staff is necessary, but what I am asking is, is it necessary to have such an elaborate top-heavy administration. Let us see what exactly these people are doing. Not being a member of the Secretariat myself, I am only speculating, one Joint Secretary is in charge of Transferred Departments and some of the Reserved Subjects, another Joint Secretary is in charge of many Reserved Subjects and the Secretary to Government is Lord Woolton and Mr. Churchill combined, directing the administration, especially with regard to the activities of the War, Food and Price Control.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Two more Departments.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* That is what I said earlier. Not being a member of the Secretariat myself and not hoping to be one, I am only speculating. I appreciate the correction. Sir, yesterday, I drew the attention of the House to the fact of the tremendous delay in the Secretariat in the matter of Price Control Measures and it was very guilelessly represented to this House that the whole delay in these Price Control Measures is because of the fact that the Central Government Gazette is being published in Simla, the Fort St. George Gazette being published in Madras and another Gazette published in Bombay it takes a long time to reach here and so these things could not be published here in time. In this connection I may draw the attention of the House to an issue of the gazette which has published price lists corrected up to 26th May 1944. That gazette ought to be supplied to the Price Control Department, which is primarily expected to publish these prices to make the public as well as the merchants aware of these things. That has not been done. In my opinion there is no meaning at all in the Price Control Department not getting this data without reference to the Secretariat. Primarily the man who fixes the prices, the Controller of Prices is responsible for fixing the prices—ought to get this data. But here the Secretariat happens to be something of a post office that forwards such things to the appropriate places. Sir, the general procedure seems to be that some superseded notifications are got hold of after 15 days' travel from Simla to Ernakulam. This when published becomes absolutely ineffective and hampers the free flow of commodities from outside to here. In this connection, I may say that I am not trying in any way to cast any reflection on your ruling yesterday, Sir. I wanted to say that the excuse that the delay in getting the gazette here is the reason for the delay in publication, is absolutely baseless. What is done is, here is an elaborate Secretariat, drawing a fat pay, with a.....

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is not correct, Sir, there is not a single day's delay in the Secretariat with regard to Price Control Measures.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I do not wish to pursue the matter. I shall finish in three minutes. My submission is that such matters should be available for the Price Control Department. I learn that this publication is not available for the reference of the

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Director of Food Supplies at all. If he wants, he has to write to the Secretariat and get a copy. I think it is a stupendously absurd arrangement.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I may say....

Mr. President : Don't interrupt him. You can take note of these points and deal with them in the reply.

Mr. V. K. Bahskara Menon. *(Cranganur):* I was only giving out the difficulty. If the Director wants these things, he has to ask for them. As a matter of fact,—I am not embarking upon an autobiography it was about a month and a half back that I gave him a copy, and nothing has come out so far; it was only a typed copy, it was not given on affidavit, and perhaps naturally he wanted to verify it with the Fort St. George Gazette. I am prepared to accept the assertion of the Secretary to Government that there is no delay in the Secretariat. It may be these paper don't come to his notice. I concede that when they come to him, immediately he passed orders straight away whether in the right way or the wrong way, it is not for me to say at least there is an order. I submit that the whole expansion of the Secretariat is made only for the provision of certain jobs. Ther, Sir, you asked a very pertinent question yesterday. Is there any machinery to check his staff? There is no machinery, that is all. There is a machinery for something. I do not know what they are doing. I know there is a machinery which is expected to do certain things but it is not doing what is expected of them. Therefore I submit that this is a matter which requires the serious attention of the Government, and if the Government is going to go on the same old lines, then the expenditure is absolutely unwarranted and cannot be sanctioned by this House.

One point more I have to place before the House, I have already prefaced my remarks by saying that I am trying to survey the budget and attack those items which in my opinion are not proper. In the matter of education, Sir, I find a large amount has been budgetted and I think most of it is well-advised, and I hope it will be well-spent. I would like to record a protest now, adout one item because I don't know whether a protest will be necessary afterwards; I find that there is a provision for the pay of the present Director of Public Instruction. I say it is absolutely improper, because, as long as we have got opportunities of getting people from outside for temporary vacancies in the State, my submission to the House is that the policy should be 'never give a chance to any man in the State'. (Laughter.)

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, The Hon'ble Members who preceded me here have practically exhausted all the main heads on which I could have addressed this House, and therefore I propose to confine myself to a few questions of policy which I would like to impress upon the Government. It will be conceded, Sir, that in spite of the effusions of personal or political animosities or disappointed adventurous propaganda, the administration has been very successful consistent with the times and troubles we have been passing through. There may be defects, there may be difficulties and there may be things that may call for further progress, but when we criticise administration, we have also to take into consideration the times during which that administration is carried on and the obstacles that are in the path of its progress.

Sir, I pass on immediately to the points of policy which I would impress upon the Government. I endorse, Sir, fully and absolutely the remarks made here about the recuritment and importation of officers from outside to man our services. I may also repeat, it is not on account of any personal bias or any personal consideration of integrity or otherwise of the officers imported, but it is only, Sir, out of the self idea that Cochin shall as far as possible feed her own sons who are capable of discharging the duties that may be imposed upon them and on that I press this for the consideration of Government. It has not been, Sir, the practice here to import as many officials as it has now become the daily practice. During the last Budget Session, Sir, there was an appointment of the Headmaster of the C. M. S., High School, Trichur, that came up for discussion.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* That gentleman is no more now.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I am sorry I did not anticipate it then. The Government then assured that there will not be a repetition of such a policy. I take it that part stands for the whole, and that policy enunciated so far as the Education Department is concerned, I thought will be adhered to completely and certainly so far as the other Departments are concerned. Now it is painful to see that since that assurance, Sir, there have been importations of a very very large number of officers, out of proportion to the needs of the Government of Cochin. And instances of the work of these officers and the manner in which they have been dealing with the subjects of the State call for little comment. I confine with the remark

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that these officers have not proved that they have that consideration and affinity for the sons of the soil as they should have.

Sir, as represented by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur South, Mr. P. P. Devassy, we are also apprehensive of a wild rumour I pray that it may not come true—that in the High Court a vacancy is to arise very soon and the Government are proposing to bring down, it is rumoured, an officer from outside to be one of the Judges of the High Court of Cochin. I further understand, Sir, that the first vacancy is to be of the Christian Judge, who has to be there as contemplated by the Constitution Act. If a Christian Judge who is to man the High Court of Cochin is to be imported from outside, I respectfully submit to the Government and to this Hon'ble House that it will be an insult to the entire Christian community, among whom there are eminent lawyers quite fit to occupy the posts in the High Court *(Hear, hear)*. If instances are wanting, with your kind leave, I would represent to the Hon'ble Government the names of many whom I know of as eminent lawyers even now practising at the Bar in the High Court. To treat them as if they are non existent and to embark upon the policy of importation to man the High Court with Judges from outside is something.....

Mr. President: Order, Order. I suggest that it is perhaps a little unwise to discuss the personnel of the High Court in this House.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Sir, I am not discussing the personnel of the High Court.

Mr. President: I understood you to be discussing the personnel.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: If I was so understood, I may say, I was only standing upon the general policy of recruiting officers from outside.

Mr. President: You can have it as a general question, without reference to any particular officer of the particular Department.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I thank you for the suggestion, Sir, and I shall deal with it generally. My submission to the Hon'ble House and the Hon'ble Government is, as far as possible, when indigenous powers, gentlemen, persons who are quite qualified, thoroughly efficient for the vacant posts are available in the State, they may be preferred to any foreigner, whatever may be the other aspects of the case.

Next I pass on, Sir, to one matter which I think it is my duty to place before this House, whether they be facts or only fictions. There is general impression among a large portion of the Cochin State subjects, Sir, that two kinds of inflation are prevalent in the State. One is the inflation of power in the executive through emergency legislations, which is absolutely called for. Nobody can say, that these legislations are uncalled for, and if anybody says they are unnecessary, I wonder how the administration will be carried on. But at the same time I would submit that about this inflation of power, Sir, there is a general impression that these powers are abused by the incumbents of the lower rungs of the official ladder. Whether it is true or not, it is not for me to discuss, but I leave the information to the Government.

There is yet another, Sir. It is a more important matter. I think the Government might have noticed from certain papers that corruption is not absent in the State and that in some papers it is said that means of corruption have ascended from coins, and have gone up to motor cars. If there is any truth in the statement, it is indeed very bad to the fair name of the administration, and if those allegations are false, it is up to the Government to clear the cloud and inform the subjects that the Government are not blind to these matters and there is no truth in those statements. I submit to the Hon'ble Government that there is a duty upon the Government to clear their conscience with respect to the persons or individuals or institutions whoever that may be that are concerned in those allegations and see that they are exonerated of such false and baseless charges of corruption.

I have no more points to place before you, Sir, I have got only one or two things more and I close. I am very glad to learn, Sir, from the Hon'ble Diwan's speech that within the few months of his presence here, he has been able to find the drawbacks of education in the State in particular and many other points at issue which are absolutely essential for the well-being of the State. I hope that the question of many institutions that call for progress will be taken up and progressed as far as possible during your administration itself. I place this remark, Sir, not because of any apprehension, but it has been a humble realisation of mine that every subsequent administration places down what was taken up by the previous. That calamity, Sir, may not befall us, is my only prayer. I conclude with the hope, Sir, that we may profit by the results of the studied experience and qualities of an Englishman, looking up to the House of Commons for inspiration, guidance and his goal and will guide us to have our aspirations achieved.

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Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* On a point of information, how much time more have we for general discussion ?

Mr. President : I propose to call upon the Government Members to reply at half past four.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I was feeling very much when several of the Hon'ble Members, especially our older colleagues, were discussing about the policy of importations from British India into our Government service. I shall refer to the reports of the Legislative Council for the year 1103 when the ex-police Commissioner Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon took charge as Commissioner of Police. He was born and brought up as a British Officer and was born in British Malabar. Several Hon'ble Members like the Hon'ble Member for Chittur, the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi and the Hon'ble for Vadakkancheri had put several questions about his scale of salary, the terms of his appointment and several other things. But there were other veteran members in this House, members like Mr. Ikkanda Warriar, Dr. A. R. Menon and others and none of them tabled any adjournment motions or put any supplementary questions in protest at the importation of Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon. But I now congratulate the Hon'ble Members who have taken up the cause of Cochin for Cochinites and have protested against the importation of foreigners into our Government service. I am glad that the opinion of the Council, rather the political opinion of the Council, has advanced and people are feeling more and more that they are Cochinites when members of communities other than theirs are imported into the State. I am a Cochinite from the first to the last and for generations a Cochinite and even today I have tabled a question in connection with the appointment of a Travancore Christian in the State service. You may note gentlemen from the answer given to a question the other day that three christians were appointed. Two of them were Christians belonging to Travancore. I have raised a voice of protest when a Travancore girl on a pay of Rs. 17 was appointed in Government service. She belonged to my own community.

I have always raised protests against the importation of Travancoreans in the State Service but I do not think I have raised any voice of protest when caste hindus are imported into the State Service. Of course I am not for importation but this I place before the House. I congratulate the Hon'ble Members for having taken up a Cochinite policy.

Then perhaps the greater and more important question that I wish to place before the House is the dearness allowance which have been granted is quite inadequate to the conditions existing here. A paper called Veera Kesari has written an Editorial. Yesterday I raised the same issue that no difference is shown in the matter of dearness allowance in the case of officers between 10 an 40. But then the Secretary to Government tried to evade that issue. The papers says that there is no different grade of dearness allowance between 10 and 40, according to the Government of India rates.

"ക 0 രൂപാമുതൽ ക 8 രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ളവരുടെ ക്ഷാമബത്ത ക 0 രൂപാ ആക്കി കുറച്ചതെന്തെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നു. ഇന്ത്യാഗവമ്മേണ്ടു ക്ഷാമബത്തക്കു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ രണ്ടു ക്ലാസ്സായി മാത്രമേ തരംതിരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അതായതു ര 0 രൂപാവരേയും ര0-നു മീതേയും ര 0 രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ളവർക്കു ക 0 രൂപായും ര 0-നു മേലുള്ളവർക്കു ക ര രൂപയും ആണു്. ഇന്ത്യാഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ ബി ക്ലാസ്സു് ക്ഷാമബത്ത എന്നാണു ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഓമ്മ. ആ നിലയ്ക്കു് ക 0 രൂപാമുതൽ ക 8 രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ളവരെന്നു ഒരു മൂന്നാം തരം സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു അവരുടെ ക്ഷാമബത്തയിൽ ഒ രൂപാ കുറച്ചതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമായിപ്പോയെന്നാണു് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ര 0 രൂപായിൽ കുറവു ശമ്പളമുള്ള എല്ലാപേരേയും ഒരു തരക്കാരായി കണക്കാക്കി എല്ലാപേർക്കും ക ഒ രൂപാ ക്ഷാമബത്ത അനുവദിക്കുകയാണു വേണ്ടതെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു."

I hope this will receive the attention of the Government. I may also add about the remarks of the Police Commissioner in the Administration Report which the Hon'ble Member for Chittur has pointed out yesterday. I just now perused that report and found that the Commissioner of Police has brought to the notice of the Government the slowness in the disposal of the cases. I honestly think that it is the duty of the Commissioner of Police to do so. I may here state for the information of the House that the policy in British India is somewhat different from that obtaining in our State. I am yet of opinion that our Magistrates give better justice than the British Magistrates. But yet with all that if it was in any way repugnant to the feelings of the Government, the Government ought to have pointed out that to the High Court and the High Court has to conduct an enquiry as to whether the Magistrates are managing cases inefficiently or whether there is any lackness which is detrimental to the interests of justice. I would suggest that even now it is not too late. I do not think that the Government has practically perused

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every line of the report. In the last portion of that report the Commissioner of Police has raised an important issue of raising the pay of his subordinates, namely the police constables. The Commissioner of Police had even made mention of the Police constables belonging to the marumakkathayam system who have to maintain two establishments. Yet with all that the ordinary police constable in Cochin is above his average colleague in South India. It is certainly a tribute to our poor policemen by an officer of the Madras Government. When fixing the dearness allowance, the Government ought to have given considerable weight to the opinion given by the Police Commissioner who is an outsider. I do not say that we should stop with the Police Constables, but it should be spread to all the other departments as well and the scale of dearness allowance granted to the menials should be put on a higher and higher percentage than those granted to high paid Government servants.

In connection with the scheme of cultivation of vegetables and fruits in the Nelliampathies, I may remind the Hon'ble Minister that he should take special attention in the matter so that it may not have the same fate as the Hill Paddy Cultivation Scheme. I can challenge the Government that there have been several cases of huge amounts of defalcations in the matter of the hill paddy cultivation. It is a matter which should be seriously enquired into. It has been put in papers published from Bombay and serious allegations have been made against the officers of the Hill Paddy. Nelliampathies is a place far more distant than the place where the Hill Paddy Cultivation is conducted. So what I say is that whoever is responsible for the cultivation should keep a careful watch. Public money should not be allowed to be squandered away unnecessarily and people should not become rich by taking public money.

Now I come to the development of water communications in the State. I would suggest that the long thought of plan of connecting Cochin with Kunnamkulam by means of waterways as well as Trichur with Cochin also should be taken into consideration. I hope that the Government will feel the importance of connecting all the waterways as far as possible to Cochin and to develop the future possibilities of commerce and industry in our State.

I have on more occasions than one brought to the notice of the Government the necessity of distributing the loaves and fishes of office on a territorial basis. As it stands the appointments are not even notified and the people in the different areas of the State and in distant places like Chittur, etc., do not get any appointments at all. There are many graduates and law graduates and several officers are being recruited from outside. I do not think that during the last two years any appointments have been given to candidates coming from Chittur or Talappilly. I do not think that there have been any in previous years also. Without affecting the principle of the ratio of communal representation, appointments can be given to all communities with the same qualifications and efficiency in such areas as Mukundapuram excluding the Irinjalakkuda Municipality, Talappilly, and Chittur Taluks. I would appeal to the Government that the Government should take up a policy of recruiting members of the Nayar community from Chittur and Talappilly Taluks which contain more than 60 per cent of the Nayars of the whole State. Unfortunately for the persons in the Thalappilly and Chittur Taluks there have been no connections with those in authority for centuries together. Consequently the Nayars in the Ernakulam and Trichur towns alone get the benefit of appointments. The Nayar community in Talappilly which from 44 per cent of the whole Nayar community in the State do not get any appointments at all whereas the Nayars in Ernakulam and Trichur who from only 10 per cent get all the appointments. So also in the case of Ezhuvas and Romo Syrians. The Ezhuvas of Kanayannur get a greater proportion of appointments than the Ezhuvas elsewhere. I say that the Ezhuvas of Kanayannur are much better than the Ezhuvas of Mr. K. T. Achyuthan or Mr. Ramakrishnan.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Deputy President)*: There are many from that side.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: They are really backward communities They should be given full fee concessions and even stipends. I may say that the Muslim population in Talappilly Taluk is about 30,000. I think it is more than 1/3 of the whole Muslim population of the whole State and I do not think there is any Muslim holding any post worth mentioning. There may be one or two Muslims drawing at the most 40 or 50 rupees in the whole State from this area. Therefore my humble request to the Government is that if there are qualified hands coming from those Taluks—without disturbing the principle of communal representation—they should be preferred.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ : മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, മഹത്തായ ഒരു പരിവർത്തനത്തിന്റെ ഘട്ടത്തിലാണ് നാം ജീവിക്കുന്നത്. ബുദ്ധിമാനായ മനുഷ്യൻ അവന്റെ ചിന്താ

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ശക്തിക്ക കണ്ടെത്തിപ്പിടിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സകല കഴിവുകളും ഉപയോഗിച്ച് മാന വവംശത്തെതന്നെ ചട്ട ചാമ്പലാക്കുവാൻ വെമ്പുന്ന ഒരു ഭയങ്കര സ്ഥിതിയാണ് ഇന്നു ലോക ത്തിൽ നാം കാണുന്നതു്. ഭയനീയമായ വിധത്തിൽ ഭൂഗോളം ഇന്നനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഈ നരക യാതനയിൽ അടുത്ത ഭാവിയിൽതന്നെ അതിനു മോചനം ലഭിക്കുവാനുള്ള ലക്ഷണങ്ങൾ തെളിഞ്ഞുകാണാനുണ്ടെന്നും, സുന്ദരവും സുഖകരവുമായ ഒരു നൂതനസംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ ഉദയ ത്തിനു മുമ്പുള്ള ഇരുട്ടാണ് ഈ ദുസ്ഥിതിയെന്നും നമുക്ക സമാശ്വസിക്കാം.

നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പാകെ സമർപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറിനെ പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ അഭൂത പൂർവ്വമായവിധം ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ മുതലെടുപ്പ് വർദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുന്നതിൽ അത്രയധികം ആഹ്ലാ ദിക്കുവാനോ, ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ അനുമോദിക്കുവാനോ ഒരുങ്ങുന്നതിനുമുമ്പിൽ രണ്ടു കാര്യം നമുക്ക് ആലോചിക്കുവാനുണ്ട്. ഒന്നാമതു് യുദ്ധപരിതസ്ഥിതിയുടെ ഒരു ഫലമായിട്ടാണ് നമ്മുടെ വരവു് ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനു് ഉയരുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതു്. രണ്ടാമത്തേതു് ഈ വർഷത്തേക്കാൾ എത്രത്തോളം കൂടുതൽ വരവു് അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ അതിന്റെ ഇരട്ടിയിലധികം പണം ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തേക്കാൾ അധികം നമുക്ക് അടുത്തകൊ ല്ലത്തെ മദ്ധ്യവിൽപനയിൽ നിന്നുമാണ് ലഭിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇതു് ഒരു ചെറിയ സംഖ്യയല്ല. ൨൦,൦൦,൦൦൦-ൽ അധികം ഉറുപ്പികയാണ് മദ്ധ്യവിൽ പനകൊണ്ടു് നമുക്ക് ആദായം ലഭിക്കുന്നതു്. അധാർമ്മികമായ ഒരു ധനാഗമമാർഗ്ഗമാണ് ഇതെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമുണ്ടോ? അതിനു് ഒരു പ്രായശ്ചിത്തമായിട്ടെങ്കിലും നമ്മുടെ ഈ വർദ്ധിച്ച വരവ് സാധാരണക്കാരന്റെ മേന്മക്കുവേണ്ടി ചിലവുചെയ്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഒരു സമാശ്വാസം ലഭിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. അതിൽ നമുക്കാവശ്യമായ ഒരു പുരോഗതിയും ഉണ്ടാ യിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ പരിഭവിക്കരുതു്.

യുദ്ധത്തിനുമുമ്പ് നമ്മുടെ വരവ് ൧ ൨,൫൦,൦൦,൦൦൦ത്തോളം മാത്രമേ എത്തി യിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അന്നു ഗ്രാമീണർക്കുവേണ്ടി ചിലവുചെയ്യുവാൻ രണ്ടുലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക ഗ്രാമോദ്ധാ രണമന്ത്രിക്കു ലഭിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇന്നു് ൨ ൨ ൦ ലക്ഷത്തോളം നാം പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിട്ടും "ഉണ്ണി പിറന്നാലും ഓണം വന്നാലും കോരനു കുമ്പിളിൽ കഞ്ഞി". ഇന്നും ഗ്രാമീണരുടെ അവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്ന സംഖ്യ ആ പഴയ ൨ ലക്ഷംതന്നെ. ഇന്നത്തെ ൨ ലക്ഷത്തിനാകട്ടെ അന്നത്തെ അൻപതിനായിരത്തിന്റെ വിലപോലും ഇല്ല.

സർ, ഒരുപക്ഷേ നാണയപ്പെരുപ്പത്തിന്റെ ആപത്തിൽനിന്നും ഭരണപരിഷ്കാരത്തെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള സദുദ്ദേശമായിരിക്കാം ഇതിനു കാരണമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ സമാധാനിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതിനു കൃതജ്ഞത പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതോടൊപ്പം ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു പരിപൂർണ്ണമായ ജനകീയഭരണം ഇവിടെ നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഉത്തരവാദ പ്പെട്ട ഭരണംമാത്രമേ പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ കാലസ്ഥിതികൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്തുകയുള്ളൂ. ബുദ്ധിമാ നായ ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ കാലഗതികണ്ടറിഞ്ഞു് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു സമർത്ഥ നാണെന്നുള്ളതു പൂർണ്ണവിശ്വാസമുള്ള സംഗതിയാണ്. ചുരുങ്ങിയതു് ഈ വരുന്നാകൊല്ല ത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനേറെയും, ഞങ്ങളുടെ രോഗികളെ ചികിത്സി ക്കുന്നതിനേറെയും ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആളുകൾക്കുപയോഗപ്രദമായ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വകുപ്പിനേറെയും ഭരണം ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വിട്ടുതരുവാൻ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉപദേശി ക്കുവാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

സർ, എല്ലാ വകുപ്പുകളിലും കാലഗതിയനുസരിച്ച് ചിലവു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ക്ഷാമബത്ത ഒരു ഇനംതന്നെ നല്ല ഒരു ചിലവിനുമായി വരുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതും കാലസ്ഥിതിക്കു തൃപ്തികരമായ ഒന്നാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ ഒരുക്കമില്ല. ൧ ൦ ക. ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു് ൧ ൦ ക. ക്ഷാമബത്ത മാത്രം കിട്ടു ന്നതു് ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ പോരാത്തതാണ്. കൊച്ചിയിലെ ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളം ക്ഷാമബത്തയടക്കം ൩ ൦ രൂപായാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും നീതിന്യായപരിപാലന ത്തിനും പത്തുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായാണ് വരുംകൊല്ലത്തെ ചിലവിൽ കാണുന്നതു്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇന്ത്യയിലോ അടുത്ത രാജ്യത്തിലോ വളരെക്കാലമായി നിലവിലില്ലാത്ത നിരോ ധനങ്ങൾപോലും ഇപ്പോഴും ഇവിടെ നിലനിർത്തുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇത്രയും സമാധാന പരമായ ഒരു രാജ്യം വേറെ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയമാണ്. പൊതുയോഗങ്ങൾ കൂടുവാനോ, പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായം അനുവഴി ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ ധരിപ്പിപ്പാനോ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെയാണ് പൌരസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തെ പിടിച്ചുകെട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതായതു മജിസ്ട്രേട്മാരുടെ വരുതിക്കു വഴങ്ങിയല്ലാതെ വർത്തമാനകടലാസ്സുകൾക്ക് ഒരു യഥാർത്ഥ സംഭവംപോലും പരസ്യം ചെയ്യു

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ക്കുടാ. എന്തെല്ലാം കക്ഷമായ നിയമങ്ങൾ ജനങ്ങളെ ശ്വാസംമുട്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ജയിലിനും നീതിന്യായപരിപാലനത്തിനും ഇത്ര വമ്പിച്ച തുക ചിലവുചെയ്യുവാൻ ഇടവരുന്നതു് പരിതാപകരമാണു്.

സർ, ഇന്നത്തെ ഭരണച്ചിലവു് താങ്ങുവാനാവാത്തവിധം ഭാരിച്ചതാണെന്നു കാണിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഇതു് ഒരു മതിയായ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമാണു്. പോരെങ്കിൽ പൊതുഭരണത്തിന്റെ സാരഥ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിനു മാത്രം പ്രതിവർഷം മൂന്നുലക്ഷത്തി പത്തൊൻപതിനായിരത്തി തൊള്ളായിരം ക യാണു് ചിലവു് എന്നും എടുത്തു കാണിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. അതുകൊ ൦ ൨ ൻ ലക്ഷം ചിലവു കാണുന്നതിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവും സ്ഥാപനച്ചിലവും കഴിച്ചാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കയ്യിൽ എത്തുന്ന ചിലവു് എന്താണെന്നാലോചിച്ചുനോക്കുക. ഇന്നത്തെ ഓരോ ഇനവും എടുത്തു വിശദീകരിക്കുവാൻ ആവശ്യമോ സമയമോ ഇല്ലാത്തതാണു്. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തത്തിനു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ പരിരക്ഷക്കു മാത്രം വേണ്ടി നടത്തുന്ന വകുപ്പുകളെ എടുക്കാം. ൻ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം ഉറുപ്പിക ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്ന മെഡിക്കൽവകുപ്പിൽ രോഗികൾക്കു ഔഷധം, ഭക്ഷണം തുടങ്ങിയവകക്കു ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്ന സംഖ്യ വെറും ൩, ൫ ൦, ൦൩ ൦ക. യാണു്. ഹിൽ ഡിസ്പെൻസറികളിൽനിന്നു ൫,൩൩ ൦ക. യുടെ ഔഷധങ്ങളും മറ്റും വിതരണം ചെയ്യുവാൻ ൬,൯൯൩ക. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവാണു് കൊള്ളിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു്. ഗ്രാന്റ്-ഇൻ-എയിഡു് ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾക്കു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ ഇന്നത്തെ മരുന്നിന്റെ വിലയനുസരിച്ചു നോക്കിയാൽ ഏറ്റവും തുച്ഛമായതും, കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെ തോതനുസരിച്ചു് ഈ കൊല്ലത്തേക്കു് ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ പോരാത്തതുമാണു്.

സർ, ൫,൩൫,൦൦൦ക. ചിലവു ചെയ്തിട്ടാണു ൨൫,൨൦,൦൦൦ക. ലാൻറ്റവന്യൂ പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതു്. ൨൨൦ ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പികയുടെ കണക്കെഴുതുന്നതിനു ൨,൨൨,൦൦൦ക. യാണു ചിലവു കാണുന്നതു്. നാണയപ്പെരുപ്പത്തിന്റെ പിടിയിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനായി അവരുടെ കയ്യിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ എത്തിച്ചേരുന്ന പണം അമിതാദായനികുതിയായോ മറേറാരോവിധത്തിലോ വലിച്ചെടുക്കുവാൻ ഉൽക്കണ്ഠ കാണിക്കുന്ന കൊച്ചി ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനോടു വൈദ്യരെ ആദ്യം സ്വയം ചികിത്സിക്കുക എന്നപേക്ഷിക്കാതെ തരമുണ്ടോ ?

വരവു കുറച്ചും ചിലവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചും ആണ്ടുതോറിയിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷയിൽ കവിഞ്ഞ മിച്ചം കാണിച്ചു ഞങ്ങൾ മിടുക്കന്മാരാണെന്നു കൊച്ചി ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പറയുന്നതു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു പതിവായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ൨൩ ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പികയാണു് ൨൨൫൯-ലെ വരവിലും ചിലവിലും അധികമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ധനകാര്യമെമ്പർ ഈ വ്യത്യാസത്തിനു് കാളുത്തിന്റെ അനിശ്ചിതാവസ്ഥയിലാണു കാരണം കാണുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെയായിരിക്കണം ഈ നിയമസഭയുടെ ഓരോ സമ്മേളനവും ഉപധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനകളുടെ പെരുപ്പംകൊണ്ടു് ഓരോ ബഡ്ജറ്റുയോഗങ്ങളെപ്പോലെതന്നെ രൂപമെടുക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റുസമ്മേളനത്തിലെ ഉപധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനതന്നെ ഉദ്ദേശം ൨൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം കയിൽ കവിഞ്ഞതായി കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തെ ആഭരിക്കുന്ന ലക്ഷണമല്ല ഇതെന്നു കാണിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി മാത്രം പറയുന്നതാണു്. ബഡ്ജറിന്റെ പൊതുവീക്ഷണത്തിൽ സാമാന്യമായ നയത്തേയും, ജനസാമാന്യത്തേയും ബഡ്ജറു് എങ്ങിനെ ബാധിക്കുന്നുവെന്നുമാണു് കാണിക്കേണ്ടതു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ജീവിതരീതിയും ഉന്നതനിലയും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസമ്പ്രദായത്തെയാണു് ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നു ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു് പറയുമ്പോൾ അതിനോടു പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി എല്ലാവരും യോജിക്കുന്നതാണു്. നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസനയം ഏതുവിധമിരിക്കുന്നു? നിർബ്ബന്ധപ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം വേണമെന്നു് ഈ സഭ വാദിക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു കാലങ്ങൾ കുറെ കഴിഞ്ഞുപോയി. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകോഡു് പരിഷ്കരണം ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കാര്യം അവരുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടുത്തുന്നുവെന്നു മാത്രം. എന്നാൽ പാഠ്യപുസ്തകങ്ങളും മറ്റും മുഴുവനും ഇതേവരെ കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നും, കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലങ്ങളിൽ ഇതു് ഒരു പതിവായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, കുട്ടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു് ഈ സംഗതി വല്ലാതെ ഹാനി തട്ടിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും, ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ അടിയന്തിരശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഞാനിവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

സർ, അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരുടെ നിയമനങ്ങളിലും, ഒഴിവുകൾ വരുമ്പോൾ ആയതു റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്താൽ ആൾ വന്നു ചാർജെടുക്കുവാൻ വരുന്ന താമസത്തിലും വളരെ വലുതായ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളുണ്ടു്. കുട്ടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഇതുകാരണം വളരെ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇന്നത്തെ നിയമനസംപ്രദായത്തിനു് ഉത്തരവാദി സ്റ്റാഫ് സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിന്റെ പ്രവർ

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ത്തനമാണു്. കൊട്ടാം, പാടാം, കൊടുകെട്ടാം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഫലദിവസം അദ്ധ്യാപകൻ, അതുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ കനാൽ സൂപ്രണ്ടു്, പിന്നെ മുൻസീഫ്കോടതിയിൽ പകരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ, അതുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ എഞ്ചിനീയറാഫീസ്സിൽ ക്ലാർക്കു്, പിന്നെ ഹജൂരിൽ അറൻണ്ടർ എന്നീ വേഷങ്ങളും ഉടൻതന്നെ ത്രോണൌട്ട ഹാൻഡു് എന്ന നിലയിൽ ൧൨ മാസം ജോലിയില്ലാതേയും ജീവിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളെ ഒന്നു മനസ്സുവെക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രം അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽ "ബൈസ്റ്റ്മെൻ" സവ്വീസിൽ വേണമോ, "മൈമെൻ" സവ്വീസിൽ വേണമോ എന്ന വാദം തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു കുറച്ചുകാലമായി. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് അതു തീർച്ചയാക്കുന്നതിനു കാലതാമസം വരുത്തരുതെന്നു വീണ്ടും അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. മേൽപറഞ്ഞ പല രൂപത്തിലുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾ ആരെന്തു പറഞ്ഞാലും കാര്യക്ഷമത കുറക്കുകയും, കാലതാമസം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു തീർച്ചതന്നെയാണു്. സാമുദായികനീതി കുറവുകൂടാതെ പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലേക്കും പരിചയം തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകുവാനുള്ള സാമ്യതയോടുകൂടി ശരിയായ സവ്വീസ്കമ്മീഷനു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുമെന്നു് അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ തെളിഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലേ ? ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലും പ്രത്യേകം വെയിറ്റേജ്ലിസ്റ്റു് നൽകിയാൽ എന്താണു് ഇതിനു വിഷമമെന്നു മനസ്സിലാവുന്നില്ല.

സർ, ഇന്നു നമ്മെ അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഏറ്റവും വിഷമമേറിയ ഒരു പ്രശ്നം ക്ഷേണപ്രശ്നമാണു്. അതിനെ നേരിടുവാൻ ആദ്യമായി മുന്നോട്ടു വന്ന കൊച്ചിഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ആ ധീരത പൊതുജനസഹകരണം നേടുന്നതിലോ, നെല്ലെടുപ്പും വിതരണവും കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കുന്നതിലോ കാണാത്തതിൽ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. ൫ കോടി ൨൫ ലക്ഷം കു.യുടെ വ്യാപാരം നടത്തുന്ന ഒരു വകുപ്പു് ആദ്യകാലത്തെ ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയോ പരിഭ്രമമോ നിമിത്തം ഇതുവരെ കണക്കു ശരിയാക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉൽക്കണ്ഠ കൂടുതലാകാതിരിക്കുമോ ? ഈ നാട്ടിൽ എത്ര നെല്ലു് ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്, അതിനു് എത്രത്തോളം പൊതുവിതരണത്തിന്നായി എടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഇത്രയധികം രഹസ്യമാണെന്നു കാണുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഞങ്ങളുടെ അനുഭവങ്ങളും പരിചയവും വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പല നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും തരുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നിരിക്കെ അതിനു് ഒരവസരം തരാതിരിക്കുന്നതു ക്ഷന്തവ്യമല്ല. കൂടുതൽ വന്നാൽ ഈ സഭയുടെ രഹസ്യസമ്മേളനം കൂടുവാനുള്ള വൈഷമ്യമെന്തു് ? ആയിരത്തിൽപരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ഈ സവ്വപ്രധാനമായ വകുപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യങ്ങളും ജനങ്ങളും ഉറക്കമൊഴിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതല്ലേ? നെല്ലിനു സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നും കൊടുക്കുന്ന വിലയിന്മേൽ പറക്കുന്ന കൂടുതൽ വില്പനയ്ക്കും ഭരണരഹസ്യമോ ഇതരബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളോ അറിയാത്ത നാട്ടുകാരൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടുതന്നെയാണു് ഏറ്റവുമധികം ആദായമെടുക്കുന്ന വ്യാപാരിയെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു തെറ്റാണോ ? ചെറുതുത്ത പാലത്തിന്റെ മറുകരയിൽ ൨൫ പൈക്കു് അരി കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ അതേ അളവിലുള്ള അരിക്കു് ഇപ്പുറത്തു നൂറു പൈ ആവുന്നതു് എത്രകണ്ടു ന്യായീകരിക്കത്തക്കതാണു്. അവിടെ കിട്ടുന്ന റേഷൻ നമുക്കു കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ അധികമാണെന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ സാധാരണക്കാരൻ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രാപ്തിയെപ്പറ്റി എന്തു വിചാരിക്കും ? തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും, മൈസൂരിലും നെല്ലുകുത്തുമില്ലകൾ വേണ്ട എന്നു വെച്ചിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ നെല്ലെടുത്തു കുലിച്ചിലവു ചെയ്തു മില്ലിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി കുത്തിച്ചു, കൂലികൊടുത്തു് ആ അരി മേടിച്ചു വീണ്ടും അതിനു കുലിച്ചിലവു ചെയ്തു കൊണ്ടുവന്നു കൂടുതൽ വിലക്കു വില്പനയും, മറവശത്തു് അതേസമയത്തു കൈക്കുത്തരി ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പ്രചരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു സംശയം ജനിപ്പിക്കുകയല്ലേ ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. എന്തിനാണു മില്ലുകൾക്കു് ഇങ്ങിനെ രക്ഷ നൽകി, അതിന്റെ നിലനില്പിനു വേണ്ടി സാധുകുലിക്കാരനായ അരി വാങ്ങുന്നവനെ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതെന്നാണു ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്.

സർ, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഭരണം കാലസ്ഥിതികൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തികരമാംവണ്ണം നടക്കുന്നതിനു വളരെ പ്രയാസമേറിയ ഒന്നാണു്. അതിന്റെ പ്രയാസമേറിയ ഭരണത്തിനു പുറമെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലെ അവശത, കാര്യക്ഷമതക്കുറവു്, പ്രമോഷൻ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ സവ്വീനിയോ സീനിയോറിട്ടിയോ നോക്കാതെ ചെയ്യുന്ന കഠിനതീരുമാനങ്ങൾ ഇവകൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലെ ഇതരഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ അതൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്തുകയും, ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനെ തൃപ്തികരമായി ഭരിക്കുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ തടസ്ഥം വരുത്തുകയുമല്ലേ ചെയ്യുന്നതു് എന്നാണു തോന്നുന്നതു് ക്ഷേണസാധനങ്ങൾ കേടുവന്നു കൊള്ളരുതാത്തവയാകുമ്പോൾ ലേലം വിളിച്ചുവില്ക്കുന്നതിനു

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ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു ന്യായീകരിക്കത്തക്ക പ്രവൃത്തിയാണോ? സാധുക്കൾക്ക് ആവശ്യത്തിനു പഞ്ചസാര കിട്ടാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പണം കൊടുത്തു വരുത്തുന്ന പഞ്ചസാര ചാക്കു പൊളിച്ചാൽ കറാച്ചിമണലാകുന്ന വിദ്യ അടിനന്ദിക്കേണ്ടതും, ചിരിച്ചു പാസാക്കിക്കളയേണ്ടതുമാണോ എന്നാണ് ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതു്. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലേക്ക് ആദ്യം കിട്ടിയിരുന്ന മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെ കോട്ടാ ഇന്നു കിട്ടിവരുന്നുണ്ടോ, ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനുള്ള കാരണമെന്താണെന്ന് ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ, അതു കുറവായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിന് ആരാണ് ഉത്തരവാദിയെന്ന് അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? എന്റെ അറിവു ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ നമ്മൾക്കു കിട്ടിയിരുന്ന മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെ കോട്ടാ അനുസരിച്ചു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിതരണം ചെയ്യാതെ കൂടുതൽ സ്റ്റാക്ക് ബാക്കിവരുത്തിയതാണ് അതിനു കാരണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ സർവ്വപ്രധാനമായ പ്രശ്നത്തെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുവാൻ ഉപദേശക്കമ്മിറ്റികളെ വെച്ചതായി അറിവുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതു് ഒരു വെറും ത്രുപീകരണം മാത്രമാണ്. അവരുടെ ഉപദേശത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്ന സംഗതികളെക്കൂടി ഗവൺമെണ്ടു സ്വീകരിക്കാതെ തള്ളിക്കളയുകയും തന്നിമിത്തം ചില കമ്മിറ്റിമെമ്പർമാർ രാജി വെക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതായി അറിവുണ്ട്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടുതന്നെ ക്ഷണപ്രശ്നം കയ്യിലെടുത്തുകൊണ്ടു് നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ദോഷങ്ങളെ തടയുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണുന്നതു സാഹസമല്ലേ? വിലനിയന്ത്രണനടപടികളാണ് ഇതിലും ആക്ഷേപാർഹങ്ങളായിട്ടുള്ളതു. പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ ആവശ്യസമയത്തു് ഉപദേശിച്ചു സൂക്ഷിപ്പുസാധനങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ സഹായിക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതു പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ കുറ്റം ചുമത്തി രക്ഷപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു പ്രതൈകനയം മാത്രമാണെന്നേ പറവാൻ തരമുള്ളൂ. കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങു കൃഷിക്കാരെയാണെങ്കിൽ അകമാനം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തി ആ കൃഷി തിരെ നിറുത്തുവാൻ പര്യാപ്തമായ നടപടിയാണു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു സ്വീകരിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു്.

സർ, ഭക്ഷ്യോൽപാദനപരിശ്രമങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും ഒരു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു കൃഷിക്കു വേണ്ടുന്ന കന്നുകാലികൾ ഇല്ലാതായിത്തുടങ്ങി. കൃഷിപ്പണികൾക്കു വേണ്ടുന്ന ആളുകളും കുറവായിത്തുടങ്ങി. കൃഷിപ്പണി ഒരു എസൻഷ്യൽ സർവ്വീസാക്കിത്തീർത്തു പരിരക്ഷ നൽകണമെന്നും നമ്മൾക്കനുവദിച്ചുതന്നതായി പറയുന്ന ന്യൂ കന്നുകാലികൾ ഒരു വില്ലേജിലേക്കു മാത്രം മതിയാവുന്ന ഒരു ഇനമാണെന്നും മാത്രം ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: The rest may be taken as read *(Laughter)*.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ: യുദ്ധാനന്തരപുനഃസംഘടനയെക്കുറിച്ചു ദിവാൻ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയ പ്രസ്താവനയെ സന്തോഷത്തോടുകൂടി സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളും ഗവൺമെണ്ടും, ഗവൺമെണ്ടും ഇതരഗവൺമെണ്ടുകളും തമ്മിൽ ഇടപെടേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ഒരു വലിയ കാംക്ഷികസ്ഥിതിവിവരക്കണക്കുകളും ശേഖരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന സംഗതികൂടി പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നു.

സർ, അടുത്ത ബഡ്ജറും സമാധാനപ്രതിഷ്ഠ നേടിയ അന്തരീക്ഷത്തിൽ പൂർണ്ണാധികാരത്തോടുകൂടിയ ഒരു മന്ത്രിസഭയാൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുവാൻ ഇടവരട്ടെ എന്നു ഞാൻ ആശ്രഹിക്കുകയും, അതിനായി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. സർ, ലോകഗതി ആ വഴിക്കു തെളിഞ്ഞുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. നമുക്കാഹ്ലാദിക്കാം.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated)*: Mr. President, Sir, I wish to add a few remarks of mine to the discussion that has taken place on the budget here. I have very little to say upon the budget proper but at the same time I might remark that there is nothing much to congratulate the Government upon its preparation. Of course it goes in the stero-typed old humdrum way and I must admit that the Government is always lucky in having wind-falls every year in their revenue from one source or another. In one year we had the unexpected revenue from the Harbour, in another year we had a Proclamation for excess profits tax which brought considerable additional revenue and this year we find that the Abkari and Ganja has given us unexpected revenue. In the last case, I think it is rather an exploitation of the labour class or the class who use these commodities and the Government is only making the best of a bad job out of it. If we look to the expenditure side we find it does not show of much vision or imagination. No useful work is undertaken. Last year we took up the Hill Paddy Scheme and invested a few lacks and the result was that in stead of getting some more paddy for consumption in these days when food is so very dear, we got only dry timber out of it and fuel. We do not know what is expected of the tapioca crop. Anyhow the final results will be known only when the figures are available. The only remark that I wish to make with regard to this is

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that whenever the Government undertakes anything in its enthusiasm to help the people, the result is disaster. We had examples of it in the past in the cases of the Potteries and Tanneries. Now we have got the Hill Paddy Scheme also. Why I speak all this just now is because the Government is trying to do something for post-war reconstruction should be careful and cautious and should not add to the category of these disasters.

Now a few suggestions I would like to make are about some difficulties of the Common people here. First, there is the Ferry and Transport Service running between Ernakulam and Cochin. Every one will admit that it is in a very unsatisfactory condition. But by bringing this to the notice of the House, I do not want to damage the Government or the ferry authorities. I only wish that the Government and the ferry authorities should take the matter more seriously and try to help the common people. That is my only object in bringing it to the notice of this Hon'ble House. I know that both the Government and the ferry authorities are doing their best. I know the Government are trying their best to get priority for machinery and other materials necessary and the authorities are doing their best and co-operating with the Government; but yet the difficulty is there, and my object in bringing this to the notice of the House and the public is that things might be done in a speedier manner. I understand from my friend sitting on the right side that they are suffering very much for want of kerosene for running the boats. I know that kerosene is very dear and we have got only a limited quota in the State. But I would suggest that the supply may be cut from houses where there is electric connections and such supplies given to the ferry authorities so that many of the poor people who have to travel may not suffer so much.

Another difficulty that I want to place before the House is that in these days when trains are very few and far between that are running from Cochin to the other parts of our continent, we find it very difficult to make direct connections with at least some of the chief centres in the Presidency. We have got a direct connection from here to Madras but we want to go to Mangalore there is no connected train from Shoranur. We have to go by the male to Shoranur, lie in the platform because there is not enough accommodation in the waiting-rooms and catch the mail that comes from Madras—Mangalore the next day. That is very difficult and causes much inconvenience to the public and business men. I know it is not easy at all to ask the Railway Administration to give us another train. What I would suggest is that from the lease and lend busses we arrange one bus secvice to run from Ernakulam to Shoranur which will give direct connection to the Mangalore mail and make it convenient for the passengers. That is my only suggestion with regard to this.

Then another difficulty which I want to place before the House is that we have not got a service by boat throughout the year to take goods from Trichur to Cochin and *vice versa*. Of course that has been explained by one or two of my predecessors. The only pertinent point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that when this question was raised before this Council earlier and we have been told it is very difficult of solution and if the Council was not bounded it will spoil the whole of the Kole crops. But I am told by competent people that if some arrangement what is called the Lock System as is prevalent in Thottappalli in Travancore could be made, it will be very easy throughout the year to transport goods from Trichur to Cochin by boats without doing harm to the crops. The very same difficulty about the crop is present in Thottappalli also which they have overcome. I would suggest that the Hon'ble Member for Engineering would try to solve this question in right earnest.

Then about the quotas for import goods which the Food Department is giving to the merchants. I wish to strongly emphasise that there is very great truth in what has been said. It neither goes to the credit of the commercial community nor of the Government that these permits for importing goods which the Government are issuing are given to businessmen who come up as merchants only for permits. They have neither a few years of business to their credit nor any standing at all. They are only strangers who come up as merchants only for this permit. I wish to bring this aspect of the matter to the special notice of the Director of Food Supplies.

Another point which I would like to add on this occassion is that it will be profitable for the commercial community as well as the Government that trade runs only through the natural trade channels as has been done in Travancore. I would suggest that the imported articles are sold not through fair price shops but through licensed merchants whom the Government think are reliable and trustworthy. The whole thing should be distributed only through them. That saves us from two difficulties. One is that the Government will not have to find so much of

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finance and the other is that a community which is established in a certain trade need not be driven out of their living.

Another crying need of Mattancheri is a Pay Ward, in the Maharaja's Hospital. I hope the Hon'ble Member for Medicine would devote some attention in this behalf.

Now we have complaints from quarters that the roads are in a very bad condition. If the Hon'ble Member for Public Works will only go to Cochin from Ernakulam he will find the axle of his car broken before he return. I know it will take much time before the roads are repaired thoroughly but what I would like to suggest is that at least the pitholes in the roads may be repaired then and there by means of a unit of two or three people, with a small hand cart and the necessary materials. In these days if the condition of the roads is not well kept the owners of cars will be put to very great difficulties since they cannot get the necessary spare parts and tyres.

Another point which I would like to impress upon the Government is this. That is the Government has stopped speculation in oil. I do not think it has been the intention of the Government to hit hard the growers of cocoanut by their action. The result has been that although the market temporarily came down on account of the stoppage of speculation the market has gone up once more but the growers are hit permanently. They are getting only a very small return for their produce and all the advantage is taken by the few mill-owners who get the monopoly for the sale of oil. I do not think the Government had any intention to hit the growers, by their action and I hope it would seriously go into the matter and see whether it can be remedied.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Sir, I will take only a few minutes, just to touch upon one or two points. The first is the charge against the Administration Report of the Police Department which was published in January of this year and to which the first speaker who started the general discussion referred in such dramatic terms yesterday afternoon. The Government re-read that passage and they are satisfied that there is nothing objectionable in that. The Commissioner of Police has not said anything disparaging about the Magistrates. He has only complained about the delay in disposal of cases. That is a subject which used to be discussed on the floor of this House very often. I know that there are questions even now pending with the Government to be answered in the next few days on the very same subject. If it were anything disparaging to the Court certainly I think, I am sure this House will be the last body to discuss it. The Commissioner of Police in his anxiety to see that crime-work is finished as early as possible and as quickly as possible to the best interests of all concerned has brought out the fact that the delay could possibly be reduced if the officers will work a little longer or alternatively probably if more courts were constituted. Of course the Commissioner can as well bring this to the notice of the Government by a confidential report or a D. O. or a separate report. But at the same time there is nothing very improper in making mention of that in a report of this type. I particularly wanted to mention this because the particular officer who is responsible for this report is absent from the House and the charge levelled was a serious one. That is a very serious charge and the Government have to take note of it and to refute it as strongly if less dramatically, *(Laughter)*, as was done yesterday.

The other point that I wish to refer to is the remarks made by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur about the Secretariat. There was a time when there was one Secretary and his designation was, Secretary to Diwan. That was very nearly a decade of 12 years ago. Times changed rapidly, I suppose and I hope this House stands for fresher and more elaborate Reforms. But this was changed and two Secretaries were appointed, one Secretary to Government and the other a Joint Secretary. At that time it was made abundantly clear that this was a reform in the right direction and I have heard encomiums being showered from innumerable sides of this House for the timely reforms that were introduced by the Government at that time. I don't know how we have grown all the more wiser now after experiencing this ten years. Well, Sir, in the last two years we have been having very hard times to cope with. The Hon'ble Members are well aware of the times through which we passed in June, two years ago. We all know the very difficult situation in which we work. We had to organise an extempore so to say, a big A. R. P. Department. We had to organise an efficient Medical Department. We have to establish a Civil Liaison Officer to help the Military in the innummerable demands on the Government and even to-day those demands have not ceased. I am very proud to say that this Government rose to the occasion and every demand made by the military was met with such promptitude as any military man could desire and we are glad that we are able to do that. We would not have been able to do any of these things and we would not have had an A. R. P. quite efficient and able to help and protect the civil population in those really dangerous

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days, had we not had a Secretariat competent to deal with the subjects. When we want emergent subjects like these to be dealt with effectively and efficiently we cannot do it without officers to help us. After these war activities developed and reached almost the climax there came the Food Supply. The Burma supplies were cut off all on a sudden. One afternoon myself and the Tahsildar had to go to Mr. Dixon to discuss certain matters. The Diwan Peishkar; Mr. Prabhu was unfortunately ill. We had to face situations like that and we wanted certainly a very efficient Secretariat at that time. Somehow or other we dealt with those stages, but we cannot over-work day and night. We are after all human machines and one day or other we are sure to succumb to the enormous strain we were particularly put to, I have to confess—When the present Diwan came I said I want some relief which he gave me immediately. With his large experience of Secretariat work and so many administrations which he had control from time to time, he realised the difficulty and gave us a third Secretary and also elaborated and developed the scope of his activities and I was relieved to some extent. That is true. Then an Assistant Secretary had to be appointed. That was necessary. Every Secretary had to be helped by an Assistant Secretary. The Secretary himself does not pass routine drafts and unless there is an Assitant Secretary to help each Secretary it is not quite possible for Secretary to put forth his best efforts. He may pass papers, but the papers will lay huddled up on the Assistant Secretary's table. It is very necessary to have an Assistant Secretary to help each Secretary. It was only the natural corollary, only a natural development of the growth of the Secretariat. A Deputy Secretary was appointed to help the Government in preparing the Post-war reconstruction schemes, When any of us looks at the development of the Secretariat and sees all these things developing within the few last years, one is apt to conclude that there is something wrong somewhere. But really it is not so.

And with regard to this anti-hoarding business the second of the Ordinance says: "The Government may by notification in the Cochin Government Gazette fix in respect of any article the maximum quantity which may at any time be possesed and the maximum price which may be charged." This is just on the same lines as the Government of India Ordinance and so long as this clause stands the Government have to prescribe rates. It cannot be left to the Director of Food Supplies. I do not think it will be proper for us to change the Ordinance without a parallel change in the Government of India Ordinance.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* There is another section authorising the Director.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, *(Secretary to Government):* I can assure the House that there is not the slightest delay in attending to these papers. There was a few days ago a reference in one of the newspapers to the delay in disposing of one file. It said that there was to be some conference with some other officers and the Secretary to Government was to be present there and the matter was not brought to the notice of the Secretary in time. There was neither a file like that nor was there to be a conference of the kind nor was there a proposal to hand over ten thousand tons of rice. This is the kind of way in which rumours spread. The Hon'ble Member must confess that he has not had any detailed knowledge of the working of the Secretariat. Probably he thought that these references are dealt with by the clerks and that I never see them. That is why he said that on my table there might not be any delay. But this is not so. I can only say to the Hon'ble Member that a little knowledge of anything is always dangerous. *(Laughter)*

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts);* Sir, I am very much gratified at the way in which the Budget has been received by this Hon'ble House. Very many members have offered remarks on the Budget and they have all been helpful to us, and the points have all been noted down for our future guidance. We are certainly very thankful for all the constructive criticisms and suggestions of various nature—suggestions from the planting of shade trees to the construction of a railway from Cochin to Bombay. All these thinge have their own importance. Sir I have not got very much to say by way of reply. I should not however omit to make reference to one or two points that have been adverted to in the course of the remarks.

One is about the allotments that the Government are making towards the Transferred Departments. Two or three Hon'ble Members have stated that the allotments Government are making to the transferred Half generally have a tendency to remain constant., and that they are not increasing. In fact this is almost the first occasion when such a charge has been laid at the doors of the Government. We have been always under the impression that we are making very liberal allotments to the Ministerial Portfolios and we are always trying to meet all the reasonable requirements of the Transferred Departments in full. Sir, I am not making any vague statement

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Iam fortified in making this statement by the figures I have taken from the budgets of the various years. I shall just read out the provisions we have been making for the Transferred Departments one by one from the years 1117 right up to 1120 and I feel certain that the House will be convinced that we have never been stinging expenditure on the Transferred Departments. I do wish that we could do more for these Departments. But the allotments that are now being made cannot be considered to be meagre. For the Department of Agriculture, in the year 1117 our actual expenditure was 1,46,000, in 1118 1,70,000; in 1119, 2,33,000 and for 1120 we have provided for 3,46,300. Then Panchayats.— In 1117, 2,71,000; in 1118, 3,82,000; in 1119, 4,10,000 and for 1120, 4,21,000. For Co-operation it rises from 26,433 in 1117 to 38,000 in 1120. There has been gradual growth in all intermediate years. Under Ayurveda, from 47,599 in 1117 it rises to 53,641 in 1118. 96,900 in 1119 and 1,47,200 in 1120. For Public Health we had made a provision of 1,36,437 in 1117 and it has risen to 2,62,300 in 1120. A very pertinent question has been put as to how much of this amount goes directly to the public. All the amount provided is for public amenities. I should think that even the establishments that have been provided are for Public purposes and the provisions for direct public amenities stand much higher in 1120 than in 1117. If we incurred some expenditure on establishment in 1117 that proportion is roughly retained for 1120 also. All the rest goes for Public amenities.

Now, Sir, this is all under service heads. If we go to debt heads we will find that we are making very large allotments for the purchase of manure and implements, for the manufacture of medicines and things of that sort. From 5,842 in 1117 the provision for manure and implements has risen to 2,00,000 in 1120, so that the charge that has been laid that the Reserved half is not allowing the Transferred half to develop is not correct. Government are fully alive to the fact that the Transferred half, the Ministry has to be treated as a favoured child of the Government, introduced in the state with blowing of trumpets. There has been the assurance in the time of Sir Shanmukham that whatever allotments that are wanted by the Minister will be liberlly given as much as funds permit. That promise stands fulfilled and more than fulfilled up to this day and I am sure Government will still continue that policy in all liberality. So much about the allotments to the Minister.

I have got one or two points more. One is the charge that the budget that has been presented before this House this time has completely neglected the cause of labour. That was the charge made by the Hon'ble Member for Labour. I have gone through a number of budgets of the past years since that remark was made and I find that this budget is charcteristic for the liberal provisions made for the administration of labour. If you scrutinise the budget, you will find that in the revised budget we have got provision of about Rs. 40 lakhs for advance to labour recruitment. (*Laughter*). Another 40,00,000 has been provided for 1120 also. About 90 per cent of it comes back to the families of labourers in Cochin, Look at the Budget again Sir. Take the P. W. D. Budget. A lump provision of 4,00,000 has been made for road maintenance not to speak of the other large provision. To whom does this money go?

Mr. A. B. Salem. *(Mattancheri)* To the Contractors.

Mr. P. V. Raphael. *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)* I am sure that the contractors will have to pass on a large portion of this to the labourers of Cochin. Similarly also the liberal provisions that have been made for the Public Works and for the Panchayats must go back to the labourers of Cochin. In addition to that we have got a Labour Welfare Officer in the person of the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam. *(Laughter)*. Sir, we cannot say that the cause of labour has been completely neglected in the budget, that has been presented before this House. We are alive to the fact that Labour is our backbone, Sir, and we take all measures for meeting their needs and demands as much as possible.

Sir, now I may touch upon the accounts of the Food Supplies Department. I understand and appreciate the anxiety of the House about this. We feel also very anxious that it has not been possible for us to publish the accounts of the year 1118. It was also asked by the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri in the course of his speech "What was the difficulty? Just put in a clerk to note the drawals from the Treasury; Just put down another clerk to note down the recoupments; What is the difficulty?" Sir, If that is all the auditing of the accounts of the department, I may submit we have done all that and much more. In my budget speech I have given you the result also. If you look into my budget speech you will find that an advance of 278.52 lakhs was given of which 241.16 lakhs has been recovered. But this is not what we have meant by and auditing of the accounts. It is much more. In fact we conducted a preliminary audit of the department for 1118 and some difficulty is noticed and this has been referred to by the Diwan President in his speech. We are also very desirous to see that the audited accounts of

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the department for 1118 are presented to you as early as possible and therefore I assure you, Sir, that every endeavour is being made to achieve this object. This is however subject to the possibility of getting some returns from elsewhere and also adjustments and reconciliations to be made with foreign bodies for which we are making every endeavour.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are these to be received from your own servants or others?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Mainly from outside. Similarly also with regard to the accounts of 1119 we are making fair progress in the matter of auditing and we hope, as has been anticipated by the Diwan President, that we will be able to give you the audited statement of the accounts of 1119 also without the great delay that has been experienced for the audited accounts of 1118. This is what I have got to speak about the accounts of the Food Department for 1118 and I should think that in the light of the statement made by the Diwan President to the House, the House may rest assured that there is nothing to be very anxious about the accounts of the year 1118 or of 1119.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What are you auditing?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Accounts and what else ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I have not got much more to say. Therefore, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Mr. President: There are one or two things I would like to add to what the Finance Member has said by way of reply to this debates. But before I do that, I should like to assure Hon'ble Members that the criticisms and suggestions which they have made in the course of these two days, though they may not have been met on the floor of the House in the course of this debate because there was no time for Government Members to reply to them all will all receive attention and wherever possible the suggestions which have been put forward will be carried out. Now, there are two matters to which I wish to make particular reference. One arises out of the speech made this morning by the Hon'ble Member Mr. Popatlal who made what I may term perhaps a fiery attack upon the administration of Food Supply Department. Now, I do not claim that that department is perfect and I do not claim that it is free from criticism. I recognise that it may have many defects and in so far as the speech of the Hon'ble Member was directed against the defects in the administration of the department I can assure him that his remarks will receive attention. But in certain respects, he was, if he will allow me to say so, less than fair to the Director of Food Supplies and his department and less than fair to the Government of this State. He implied that we were free to fix the ration as we liked. He complained that we were passing too much grain on to Travancore and he asked why we did not get our supplies of food from places near at hand. Now, I should like to remind the Hon'ble Member who appears to have forgotton that this business of procurement and distribution of food grains is being dealt with as an all India matter. All Provinces and all States are concerned in the equitable distribtion of food, We, as the Hon'ble Member knows are a very small State and the reason why the ration we are able to distribute is so small is that the arrangements for distribution have not brought us enough to enable us to distribute a bigger ration. It is not the fault of the Food Department, it is not the fault of this Government that we are not able to distribute a more generous ration. The reason simply is that we have not been able to obtain greater supplies and I would like to add that the Government of India and their Food Department are very well aware of the situation here. We have not failed to rub in our troubles to them and they are perfectly well aware of them. But they have not been able to provide any more for us.

Similarly with the other criticism. The surplus produce in the surplus provinces is all brought by and distributed under the orders of the Government of India. We cannot say that we will import all our rice from Madras. It would be very much more convenient for us if we could. But we have to take what is allotted to us from the places where it suits the central organization to make their allotment. That is why we are not able to get all our supplies from places near at hand.

And again, the reason why we send so much of what comes into the Harbour here on to Travancore is that it suited the two States of Travancore and Cochin to go to the Government of India together in partnership because we thought that our two voices put together would be stronger than each one speeking by itself. I think Honourable Members will agree that, that was the proper position to take. From the very start the arrangement has been that of the various quotas which come in by sea four parts go on to Travancore and one part we keep for this State. That is the reason why the Honourable Member sees so much rice and other grains going on from here to Travancore. I hope I have satisfied the Honorable Member's point and I hope I have

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cleared the Food Department and this Government of the charges which he, I still think, unfairly brought against them.

I want to refer to one other matter and that is the comments which came from a certain number of Honourable Members at the absence in my opening speech of any reference to political affairs or constitutional changes. I omitted reference to these matters deliberately, first because I believe that the contribution which political and constitutional changes can make to the well being and happiness of the people of the State is small compared with that of which improvement in their material and economic condition is capable, secondly, because I feel that after being only seven months in the State I am not yet competent to make any pronouncement on political and constitutional issues. I am always prepared to consider proposals and suggestions regarding these matters. But I feel that my knowledge of political currents and under-currents in the State is as yet so superficial and imperfect that it would be presumptuous on my part to initiate proposals. The article which appeared recently in the Press to which reference was made yesterday was not authorised or inspired by me. I have a completely open mind as to the nature of any constitutional change which may be desirable and as to the time when any such change might with advantage be introduced. But of one thing I am quite sure and that is this: that the threat of the Honourable Member for Vadakkancheri to compel the Government to resort to certification for the carrying on the administration is not the way to prove the fitness of this Honourable House to shoulder a greater burden of responsibility. (*Laughter*, loud and continued and cries of *hear, hear*).

The House for the day at 5-5 p. m.

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA
Secretary to the Council

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